



July 21, 2025

The Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
The Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

SUBJECT: Request for Chapter Amendment When Signing S7501-A / A8086-A To Direct Counties to Develop and Maintain Comprehensive County Emergency Medical System Plans

Dear Governor Hochul,

The emergency medical responders across our State that make up the United New York Ambulance Network (UNYAN) and the New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association (NYSVARA) are grateful for your interest in legislation on emergency medical services.

The State Legislature has passed S7501-A / A8086-A to direct Counties to develop and maintain comprehensive County Emergency Medical System Plans and this bill will soon be before you for review.

UNYAN and NYSVARA would like to request a chapter amendment to this bill that would require the inclusion in County Emergency Medical Systems Plans of existing emergency medical services operators and agencies that effectively service their communities.

No agency that provides reliable service to its community and meets soon to be established performance metrics should be excluded from a County EMS plan for the purposes of empowering an alternative ambulance operator. We believe any expansion of ambulance territory recommended under County EMS plans should not negatively impact existing EMS agencies that provide reliable service.

The mandatory inclusion of existing ambulance operators in County EMS plans received a favorable response from bill sponsors and legislators in the original version of the EMS as an essential service bill. This provision, however, fell off the table in the drafting of a slimmed down A-version of the bill during the end of session rush.

Similar language was included in the County EMS planning provisions of your 2026 Executive Budget Proposal– “No county shall remove or reassign an area served by an existing emergency medical services agency where such emergency medical services agency is compliant with all statutory and regulatory requirements and has agreed to participate in the provision of the approved county plan.” We seek this language be included as a chapter amendment to the bill if signed.

NYSVARA and UNYAN member EMS responders report to shifts around the clock and are always ready to assist the ill and injured. We appreciate your consideration of this chapter amendment to secure their organizations’ future inclusion in county EMS system plans. We thank you for your consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact legislative representatives Andrea DeBow on behalf of UNYAN at adebow@elkstreetgroup.com or Steven Kroll on behalf of NYSVARA at legislation@nysvara.org.

Sincerely,

Tim Egan

Tim Egan, Chair
United NY Ambulance Network

Henry Ehrhardt

Henry Ehrhardt, President
NYS Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association