



COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

Board of Supervisors

1312 Fairlane, Suite 1
Yreka, California 96097
www.co.siskiyou.ca.us

(530) 842-8005
FAX (530) 842-8013
Toll Free: 1-888-854-2000, ext. 8005

August 21, 2024

Assemblymember Steve Bennett
1021 O Street, Suite 4710
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 1168 (Bennett): Emergency medical services (EMS): prehospital EMS – OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Bennett:

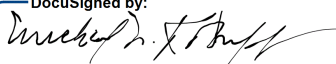
Siskiyou County is writing this letter to express our continued opposition to AB 1168. AB 1168 overturns extensive litigation and upends the Emergency Medical Services Act (EMSA). Even in light of the recent amendments, the bill would overturn unsuccessful legal action, which would fragment the EMS system for Ventura County, and potentially other jurisdictions, including Siskiyou County.

With the passage of the Emergency Medical Services Act in 1980, California created a framework for a two-tiered system of EMS governance through both the state Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) and local emergency medical services agencies (LEMSAs). Counties are required by the EMS Act to create a local EMS system that is timely, safe, and equitable for all residents. To do so, counties honor .201 authorities and contract with both public and private agencies to ensure coverage of underserved areas regardless of the challenges inherent in providing uniform services throughout geographically diverse areas.

AB 1168 seeks to abrogate unsuccessful legal action that attempted to argue an agency’s .201 authorities – that is, the regulation that allows eligible city and fire districts that have continuously served a defined area since the 1980 EMS Act to administer EMS including providing their own or contracted non-exclusive ambulance service. In the case of the City of Oxnard v. County of Ventura, the court determined that their case “would disrupt the status quo, impermissibly broaden Health and Safety Code section 1797.201’s exception in a fashion that would swallow the EMS Act itself, **fragment the long-integrated emergency medical system**, and undermine the purposes of the EMS Act.”

Enclosed with this letter is the letter that we sent on July 17, 2023, which is still largely relevant even with the recent bill amendments. We are concerned by AB 1168 and the effort to dismantle state statute, regulations, and an extensive body of case law regarding the local oversight and provision of emergency medical services in California. This bill creates fragmented and inequitable EMS medical services statewide.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:


Michael Kobseff

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Brandon Criss
District 1

Ed Valenzuela
District 2

Michael Kobseff
District 3

Nancy Ogren
District 4

Ray Haupt
District 5

cc: Senator Brian Dahle
Assemblymember Megan Dahle
Rural County Representative of California (RCRC)
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange