



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES & CARRIERS

Administration  
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The Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr.  
Chairman – House Committee Corporations  
State House  
Providence, R.I. 02903

May 7, 2024

**Re: H- 8217 - An Act Relating to Public Utilities and Carriers – Non-Emergency Medical Transportation**

Dear Chairman Solomon:

The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (“Division”) has worked closely with the Governor’s Office and other state agency stakeholders to craft House Bill H-8217 and fully supports its passage.

The Bill creates a new chapter in Title 39 designed to correctly regulate *indispensable* Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (“NEMT”) as an industry unto itself, rather than continuing to force-fit it into a 22-year-old regulatory scheme devised for *non-essential* luxury Black Car and Limousine service. Simply put, the bill rightly recognizes that NEMT is an ever-growing critical lifeline service coordinated through the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (“EOHHS”), and not a discretionary luxury service.

Nonetheless, the Bill was drafted to retain all the public-safety protections regarding company/driver vetting, vehicle inspections, and mandated liability coverages currently in place for Division-regulated for-hire passenger carriers, while simultaneously streamlining the application process for new companies and providing EOHHS much-needed flexibility regarding the type, age, and mileage of such service vehicles.

I plan to attend tonight’s Committee hearing and would be happy to supplement this full-fledged written support of H-8217 with additional dialogue if you would like.

Sincerely,

Linda George, Esq.  
Administrator, RI Division of Public Utilities and Carriers

CC: The Honorable Chairwoman, Representative Patricia Serpa  
The Honorable Members of the House Committee on Corporations  
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel, Speaker of the House