



May 7, 2024

To Honorable Joseph J. Solomon, Jr, Chair
House Committee on Corporations
State House
Providence, 02903

Dear Chairman Solomon, Jr.

My name is Francesco Giusti, I am the owner of EFG Transportation.

EFG was founded by my father Luigi and I, it is a family-owned business and we have been serving Rhode Island State Medicaid for the past 9 years.

I am against House Bill H8217.

I am against the last Act that “would require any person who transports a patient by a stretcher or in a supine position in a vehicle be licensed as an emergency medical service”. I am in favor of the rest of the bill so the NEMT industry will be more regulated, but this act would shut many companies down.

I all these years, EFG has provided stretcher transport only. The stretcher transport is present everywhere around the country and has proved to be safe and reliable.

There can be different reasons why a patient needs a stretcher to get to their appointments. - Patients might have stairs at their residence and are not able to walk up and down those stairs. -Patients might have a handicap that does not allow them to be standing and walking on their own or to sitting up on a wheelchair and so they are bed bound.

-Doctors, such as wound care for example, require a wheelchair patient to be transported by stretcher to their facility as the wound to be treated might be in a location where the patient must lay down to be able to be visited.

-Patients that attend dialysis treatments might need assistance being transferred onto the dialysis chair, and for this reason a normal wheelchair patient might require a stretcher transport for the only reason that a stretcher transport is equipped with a minimum of two men crew that can safely assist patient transferring to the dialysis chair.

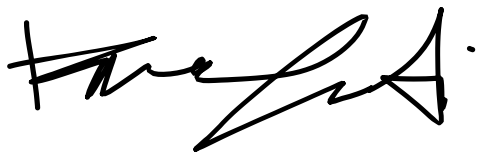
These are the most common reason of why a person requires a stretcher transport. Our patients do not require any type of emergency or no-emergency treatment during transport. You don't need an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) to perform a NEMT (NON-EMERGENCY medical transport) rides only because they are on a stretcher.

The fact that a patient needs a stretcher does not mean that requires any sort of treatments and an ambulance with EMTs, and I can guarantee that EFG has never picked up a stretcher patient ride that resulted to be an emergency.

Our vehicles and stretchers must be professionally installed and inspected at least once a year and our driver must obtain 14 different certifications before they can perform the job duties. One of the requirements is the stretcher certificate, they must attend a in person class where they learn how to maneuver the stretcher safely and how to transfer a patient to and from the stretcher.

This act included in the Bill will force us and other companies to shut down and many employees and their families will lose their job.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francesco Giusti', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Francesco Giusti

Owner

EFG Transportation