



Florida Chapter

of the

American Academy of Emergency Medicine

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November 19, 2009

Senator Garrett Richter
310 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Senator Richter,

The Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine (FLAAEM) is an organization of board certified emergency physicians represented throughout the state of Florida.

Emergency Medical Services is a subspecialty area for physicians practicing emergency medicine, and as such, is an area of concern to FLAAEM.

EMS medical directors should be vested with the authority to intervene in any issues that impact or are the result of the delivery of out of hospital patient care. The responsibility of EMS physicians serving the community should be independent from the financial or political interests of any private institution or other entity within a health care delivery system.

Dr. Robert Tober is the former chairman of two emergency departments in Collier County. He has been the medical director of Collier County EMS for the past 31 years. Under his stewardship, Collier County EMS has garnered many awards and has saved numerous lives. To this day, Dr. Tober continues to develop cutting-edge pre-hospital care protocols.

It is the position of FLAAEM that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the state of Florida for the EMS medical director to maintain complete autonomy in decisions regarding the many faceted aspects of pre-hospital care. Specifically, FLAAEM believes that the medical director should work in an environment free from undue political influence so medical reasoning can guide clinical care without interference.

FLAAEM opposes the Paradise Coast and Panther Creek bills and believes they threaten to fragment pre-hospital medical care. FLAAEM joins the Collier County Medical Society in their opposition to the bills' attempt to establish medical care under the direction of a fire district.

FLAAEM continues to fully support Dr. Robert Tober in his effort to provide responsible and safe medical care to the citizens of Collier County.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Scheppke, MD FAAEM
FLAAEM President

Andres Sasson, MD FAAEM
FLAAEM Vice President