



Florida Chapter

of the

American Academy of Emergency Medicine

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November 14, 2008

Dear Commissioner Colleta,

The Florida Chapter of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine (FLAAEM) is a professional medical society representing Board Certified Emergency Medicine Specialists in 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.

FLAAEM supports practices that promote the safety and well being of every citizen in need of emergency and pre-hospital medicine in the State of Florida.

Pursuant to Florida State Law and Administrative Code, the EMS Medical Director is responsible for developing and overseeing medical protocols and quality assurance programs.

FLAAEM believes such duties include the right and obligation of the Medical Director to ensure that care provided by paramedics and EMT's working under the Medical Director's license is safe and medically correct.

It is the position of FLAAEM that the EMS Medical Director is the one person most qualified to decide the best course of treatment for pre-hospital patients in need of Basic and Advanced Life Support care. These decisions include the institution and withdrawal of privileges to provide such care by Paramedics/EMTs working under the license of the Medical Director.

It is the position of FLAAEM that it is in the best interest 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 this care. Specifically, FLAAEM believes that the Medical Director should work in an environment free from undue political influence so as medical reasoning can guide clinical care without interference.

FLAAEM believes that the Medical Director alone should decide who can practice ALS or BLS under the Medical Director's License, which medical devices and medications are best used under the Medical Director's supervision, and what Protocols are written for the care of the pre-hospital patient. FLAAEM believes that only the Medical Director has the necessary training, expertise and qualifications to make such decisions for Fire and EMS systems.

FLAAEM recognizes that the use of Advanced Life Support Skills can be life saving in the right hands, but may be dangerous and life threatening in the wrong hands. FLAAEM believes that only the EMS Medical Director is qualified to decide to whom we should entrust these skills in the pre-hospital arena.

FLAAEM supports Dr. Tober in his efforts to make CCEMS the best in the country and maintain the high standards for both ALS and BLS which the citizens of Collier County have come to expect. Our position statement is posted on our website www.FLAAEM.org for further review. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

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President, FLAAEM

Kenneth A. Schepcke, MD FAAEM
Vice President, FLAAEM