SAMPLE OPPOSE LETTER

June 2X, 2022

The Honorable Jim Wood, DDS
Member, California State Assembly
1020 N Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Wood,

On behalf of [*County name*], I write today to share our opposition to SB 443 as amended on June 16 and authored by Senator Robert Hertzberg.

Senate Bill 443 would allow any agency providing local .201 emergency medical services (EMS) to independently determine their own patient safety standards without county or state oversight. It would create a fragmented, inequitable patchwork of EMS medical practices within our county and throughout the state.

Our county is required by the EMS Act to create a local EMS system that is timely, safe, and equitable for all residents regardless of location. To do so, we contract with both public and private agencies to ensure emergency medical services for all residents. Our county is also required by law to have a licensed physician as the designated EMS medical director “to provide medical control and to assure medical accountability throughout the planning, implementation and evaluation of the EMS system” [§ Health & Safety Code 1797.202].

SB 443 as amended and referred to the Assembly Health Committee seeks to overturn county/LEMSA medical control and transparency. It does not “clarify” Senator Hertzberg’s previous legislation, SB 438, as that legislation focused on the dispatching of services and specifically preserved county/LEMSA medical control.

If SB 443 were to become law, [*insert county impacts, including fragmentation, difficulty in ensuring service, inequities, etc. Be sure to include any special challenges your county faces – underserved areas, geography, etc. to illustrate why uniform medical control is important*].

[County name] is opposed to SB 443 and allowing individual EMS providers to determine their own patient safety standards. It would create a fragmented, inequitable, and expensive patchwork of EMS medical practices for our residents, and it is for these reasons that [County name] respectfully urges your “No” vote for SB 443.

Thank you,

cc Honorable Members, Assembly Health Committee
The Honorable Robert Hertzberg, California State Senator
[*County’s legislative delegation*]
Richard Figueroa, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Tam Ma , Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom
Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary, California Health and Human Services Agency
Elizabeth Basnett, Acting Director, Emergency Medical Services Authority
Lara Flynn, Principal Consultant, Assembly Health Committee
Republican Consultant(s)