



**Pennsylvania Municipal League**  
President – Douglas Baker, Mayor, City of Franklin



**Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners**  
President – John J. Jablowski, Jr., MPA, Councilman, Wilkes-Barre Township

## MEMO

To: The Honorable Members of the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee

From: Amy Sturges, Deputy Executive Director for Advocacy, Pennsylvania Municipal League and Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners

Re: Support for Senate Bill 501 (PN 469)

Date: October 23, 2023

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On behalf of the members of the Pennsylvania Municipal League and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners, I am writing to express our support for Senate Bill 501 scheduled for Committee consideration tomorrow, October 24.

The Commonwealth's emergency services system is in crisis, as our EMS organizations struggle day after day to respond to emergencies due to lack of funding and staffing shortages. Our members recognize the importance of addressing the delivery of emergency services and the need to develop new, more efficient models. Senate Bill 501 represents the opportunity to explore and develop regionalized coordination of emergency services at the county level. This legislation would be optional and empower local government with the flexibility of grassroots decision making and planning based on local needs and goals for emergency services.

While not a quick fix for the emergency service crisis facing Pennsylvania, this tool would provide an avenue for relief and the opportunity to develop best practices and initiatives to encourage municipalities to consolidate and share services. This flexibility may lead to emergency services models for municipalities and EMS organizations to follow and implement in the future.

We respectfully request an affirmative vote for Senate Bill 501 so the bill can move to the Senate floor for further consideration.

Thank you.