



December 5, 2025

The Honorable Joe Pittman
Senate Majority Leader
Senate Box 203041
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3033

Dear Leader Pittman:

On behalf of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) and our Emergency Management and Veterans Affairs Committee, as well as our local government partners – the Pennsylvania Municipal League (PML), Pennsylvania Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC), Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA), Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB), and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS) – we write to ask for immediate consideration of SB 737 by the full Senate as soon as possible to help aid in solutions to the emergency medical services (EMS) crisis.

Senate Bill 737 would allow for the creation of countywide or multi-municipal public safety authorities for the purposes of providing emergency medical services and administrative support and coordination of these services. The ability to utilize this model could dramatically change the EMS provision landscape by not tearing down our already existing providers, but by streamlining resources to ensure companies can remain in business, while more adequately and efficiently serving residents locally. Forming and participating in an EMS authority is a local decision, and the bill directs the Department of Community and Economic Development to work with the Bureau of EMS and relevant stakeholders to develop guidance and assistance for counties to create public safety authorities and contract to provide educational and technical assistance. EMS authorities would not be created with providers of EMS in the dark, rather as entities at the table. The county cannot simply take over service provision but will have to work to bring stakeholders together to build buy-in and trust to whatever model and solutions are ultimately developed locally.

Additionally, SB 737 would provide clarification that the existing statutory ability to create authorities also extends to EMS – providing an option, not a mandate for counties or

municipalities to create EMS authorities. There are a number of benefits to this concept, including the ability to aggregate resources. For instance, a single authority can apply for grants on behalf of all participating agencies, rather than forcing multiple entities to compete with one another for limited resources. It could also allow individual agencies and departments to retain their own autonomy rather than engaging in a merger, with the larger authority handling common administrative tasks or serving as a resource for recruitment and training. Further, we realize that funding and resources are one of the significant challenges facing emergency services today, and the authority structure allows for consideration of fee alternatives that would offer additional financial assistance, making it easier for EMS companies to focus on service provision over the constant need for fundraising.

To be clear, counties are not seeking to take over the responsibility for EMS, but rather to offer resources and alternatives and to help with bringing stakeholders to the table to create local solutions. Counties, their municipal leaders and local service providers, in many cases, are already coming together to examine and implement solutions to the crisis that work for their communities and believe that SB 737 will offer an opportunity to enhance local collaborative efforts by allowing for operational efficiencies and local decision making that can best serve their residents' needs. We also recognize that the option to create EMS authorities is not a silver bullet to solve this crisis – it is just one tool in the toolbox, and much work remains to be done on the other topic areas in our [EMS Task Force](#) report.

Thank you for consideration of this request. Please reach out Frank Mazza, CCAP Director of Government Relations at (570) 262-2493 or via email at fmazza@pacounties.org.

Sincerely,

County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP)
Pennsylvania Municipal Leage (PML)
Pennsylvania State Association of Township Commissioners (PSATC)
Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs (PSAB)
Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA)
Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS)