



### **Helping the Helpers: Supporting EMS in PA**

PA Joint Democratic Policy Committee Roundtable Discussion, co-hosted by Chair Katie Muth, Chair Ryan Bizarro, Senator Lindsey Williams, & Rep. Nick Pisciotano.

Foerster Student Service Center Auditorium, Community College of Allegheny County

April 20, 2022, 10:30 AM

#### **Opening Remarks (10:30-10:45)**

Senator Katie Muth, Senate Policy Committee Chair

Representative Ryan Bizarro, House Policy Committee Chair

Senator Lindsey Williams

Representative Nick Pisciotano

#### **Panelists**

- Greg Porter, Chairman, Allegheny County EMS Council, Ross West View EMS Assistant Director
- Eric Schmidt, Chairman, Allegheny County EMS Chiefs Association, Shaler Hampton Township EMS Chief
- Douglas Pascoe, Chief, South East Regional EMS
- Bill Miller, Chief, McKeesport Area EMS Rescue
- Jim Erb, EMS Supervisor, Citizens Hose Ambulance Service
- Todd Plunket, Chief, Baldwin Emergency Medical Service

#### **Panel 1: Systemic Issues Facing EMS Agencies (10:45-11:45)**

- What qualitative differences can be made to the structure of how EMS agencies are operated in Pennsylvania to produce better outcomes for workers and patients?
- Would reforming the role of the EMS Bureau so that it more closely reflects the scope of the Office of the State Fire Commissioner in regard to staffing and reporting allow for better outcomes in regard to systemic issues EMS agencies face?
- What specific State-Level initiatives can be undertaken to allow for better retention of EMS personnel?
- To you, what is the best revenue structure to establish for EMS Agencies in Pennsylvania? Would it be more focused on local areas or would the Commonwealth be the primary actor?
- Are there any key differences in the above problems and solutions for more rural EMS Agencies?
- How has COVID exacerbated these struggles over the past two years?

**Panel 2: Personal Impact of Issues facing EMS Agencies (11:45-12:45)**

- Could you speak to how someone in an emergency could directly benefit from solving the issues mentioned in the previous panel?
- How have the issues mentioned in the previous panel affected you and those who work for you personally?
- Can you speak to how these systemic issues directly affect the retention of EMS personnel?
- What number would you personally suggest in regard to increasing EMS funding?
- How do reimbursement rates affect your bottom line?
- What does the impact of only being reimbursed for transports have on your agency?
- What do you see EMS looking like in the future – 5, 10 years down the road?
- What do you need from us?

**Closing Remarks (12:45-1:00)**

Senator Lindsey Williams

Representative Nick Pisciotano

Representative Ryan Bizarro, House Policy Committee Chair

Senator Katie Muth, Senate Policy Committee Chair