



# Town of Coventry

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**RE: SB429, An Act Regarding Medicaid  
Testimony of Lisa Thomas  
Chair, Coventry Town Council  
Chair, Capitol Region Council of Government Legislative Committee  
March 9, 2026**

Co-Chairs Gilchrest and Lesser, Ranking Members Case and Perillo, Vice-Chairs Comey and Maher, and Distinguished Members of the Human Services Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to express support for SB429, which will increase Medicaid reimbursement for ambulance services by adjusting the out-of-district mileage calculation for such services. This legislation would support the ongoing attempts by municipalities to resuscitate their emergency medical services. Additionally, it is consistent with CRCOG's legislative agenda.

Many of you have heard from me in recent years regarding the crisis our towns face while trying to provide timely, life saving ambulance responses to our residents. We have seen a huge decline in volunteer EMS providers, skyrocketing costs for ambulances, and bidding wars for paid EMTs. **Additionally, ICU, Labor and Delivery, and other critical need services have been terminated in several northeastern CT hospitals, resulting in transports to hospitals further away, and in double transports.** When a patient has to be transported twice because the initial receiving hospital doesn't have the infrastructure to provide required care, their care is delayed and there is greater cost for their transport. This is a lose-lose situation.

SB249 will help address the contribution of low Medicaid reimbursement rates to Connecticut's ambulance staffing, maintenance, and response crisis. Adjusting how out-of-district mileage is calculated is a modest but important change that will assist municipalities with providing timely and effective emergency medical care services to our residents. As we continue to problem solve our overall healthcare challenges, **the State has a vested interest in taking all possible steps to address residents' well being before their medical needs escalate to crisis levels.**

I respectfully urge the Committee to support SB249 and the many benefits it will provide.

Respectfully,