



BETTER COMMUNITIES THROUGH SOUND GOVERNMENT

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August 28, 2024

The Honorable Terrance C. Cole
Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security

- And -

The Honorable Janet Kelly
Secretary of Health and Human Resources
P.O. Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218

Dear Secretary Cole and Secretary Kelly:

For the past 40 years, local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies across the Commonwealth have operated under a regionally managed medication kit program to deliver life-saving medications in prehospital situations. These kits were supplied and funded through hospital pharmacies.

Changes in federal and state regulations will end the current practice between EMS agencies and hospitals, and by Nov. 27, 2024, EMS agencies (and the communities they serve) will assume responsibility for purchasing and maintaining pre-hospital drug kits.

Given the impact on smaller and fiscally challenged communities, we are writing to ask if the Administration would consider convening a workgroup to discuss ways to help EMS agencies and the communities they serve, or to propose options in the 2025 General Assembly Session to help underwrite the costs for these EMS agencies, including cost sharing with hospitals or state grants to assist EMS agencies with the costs they will now incur.

If the issues are traceability of the drugs from the manufacturer to the patient along with verifying the credentials of the drugs and suppliers, then having the locality manage the program with the appropriate DEA and VA Board of Pharmacy licensing would accomplish those goals. Given that localities have already applied for the licensing our request would be to assist localities in the funding.

Thank you for consideration of our request. We would be pleased to discuss this further with you or participate in any meetings about this issue.

Sincerely,

Michelle Gowdy
Executive Director

P.O. Box 12164
Richmond, VA 23241

804/649-8471
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