



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Honorable Members of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

**FROM:** Marcie Rainbolt, Government Affairs Associate

**DATE:** November 30, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Opposition to Assembly Bill 654; Dispatcher assisted bystander CPR

Assembly Bill 654 (AB 654) requires that emergency dispatchers be trained to provide telephonic assistance in the administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). We commend the bill authors for their work on this well-intentioned bill, but are concerned that costs may ultimately be borne by local governments.

In consultation with the sheriff and deputy sheriff associations, the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) has concerns with the funding mechanism provided in this bill. Though \$250,000 is allocated to the grant program for initial training, there is concern the amount will be inadequate to train dispatchers initially and ongoing in future years. The bill also provides the option for the Joint Committee on Finance to provide funds through a 13.10 hearing, but there is no guarantee funding will be available or allocated by the committee.

County Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) would not be the only grant eligible 911 call centers. Municipal PSAPs would be in competition with counties for limited funds. Without appropriate funding, mandated training requirements become an unfunded mandate, placing additional burden on our already limited county resources. WCA is committed to assisting with this legislation by working with our membership to help determine a more accurate cost for the training outlined in the legislation. However, due to the vast numbers of PSAPs—72 county PSAPs and additional municipal PSAPs—it will take time to secure accurate information.

In lieu of the training mandate, the legislation does provide an option for PSAPs to transfer 911 calls to an outside PSAP with dispatchers trained in CPR. However, this is potentially not a viable option. At this time, not all PSAPs have the equipment to transfer a call without being disconnected from the caller. As a result, if a call is transferred the PSAP of origin may be unable to relay accurate information such as the estimated time of

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arrival of emergency personnel or have the ability to relay to emergency personnel the status of the individual in crisis.

We respectfully request the authors consider amending the bill to include either a sum sufficient appropriation or elimination of the training mandate if funding is not sufficient to provide training for all county personnel. Further, we request the opportunity to work with the bill authors to determine more accurate costs associated with AB 654 before the bill moves forward.