



State of Connecticut

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March 2015

Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection
Division of Statewide Emergency Telecommunications
1111 Country Club Road
Middletown, CT 06457

RE: DSET Docket No. 13-01

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in favor of the new funding proposals to determine the State subsidy funding for regional Public Safety Answering Points. My name is Melissa Ziobron and I represent the 34th Assembly District, comprising of the towns of East Haddam, East Hampton and part of Colchester, all of which are serviced by the Colchester Emergency Communication PSAP. Being a rural district, the citizens of my towns depend greatly on PSAPs to provide emergency assistance during times of distress. Unfortunately funding for the different PSAPs has not always been fairly or equally divided.

The Kimball Study identifies the disparities in funding levels in the State resulting in significant inequalities unrelated to either populations served or to the call volumes or workloads. The State 9-1-1 Commission has agreed with the Kimball Study and has proposed changes to the funding formula in its NPRC, Docket 13-01.

Due to this inequity in funding and outdated funding equations, highly funded centers can deliver services to their member municipalities at a bargain rate. In addition, this can lead to technology gaps with the well-funded PSAPs having for more advanced equipment. The end result is a detrimental effect on the services that first responders can provide. To prevent this, the member townships have to provide financial support leading to a larger fiscal burden when compared to better funded PSAPs.

I strongly urge that this change be forwarded to the Regulatory Committee, and ultimately the Legislature.

Best Regards

Melissa Ziobron
State Representative
34th District