

State Senator Darrel J. Aubertine
317 Washington Street, 4th Floor
Watertown NY 13601

Date: _____

Dear Senator Aubertine,

Our Local non-profit ambulance service, Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue Service (TIERS) has been offering a subscription membership program to the River district families for over six years. By joining TIERS membership program, SAFEGUARD, it not only allows me to give a tax deductible contribution, but if I, or a family member, is transported in a TIERS ambulance I do not pay a portion of the insurance charge.

The New York State Attorney General's office has undertaken an investigation of membership ambulance programs operated by ambulance services as TIERS across the state. Because these programs essentially allow members to not pay a portion of the billable insurance charges, they are of the opinion that these subscription programs are insurance policies and that ambulance services do not have a license to sell insurance.

While the Attorney General has not demanded that any ambulance services suspend their membership programs, TIERS feels they should stop their program so they do not come under scrutiny. I feel my membership program through TIERS provides a vital link to more affordable healthcare while, at the same time, assisting my local dedicated volunteers who work on the community ambulance. This action by the Attorney Generals office is affecting hundreds of other non-profit ambulance services across the state and it seems very unfair.

We encourage you to look closely at the current legislation and change it or pass a law allowing non-profit ambulance organizations to offer membership programs.

Sincerely,

name