February 11, 2010

Commissioner Margine Sako  
SF Community & Public Healthcare Committee  
c/o Mark Morewitz, MSW, Executive Secretary  
101 Grove Street, Room 311  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Commission Sako:

The San Francisco Paramedic Association would like to express our strong support of the development of a unified system of care for the emergency medical treatment of ST Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarction, or STEMI, similar to that which is available in many other Emergency Medical Systems in the state of California and the US.

We appreciate the work done by our local EMS providers in providing 12-lead electrocardiograms in the field, but feel that this is only a part of a comprehensive system of care for these patients. We would like the San Francisco EMS System to move forward with plans to designate STEMI Receiving Centers, and provide coordination and quality improvement services for such a system as it is quickly becoming a standard of care. The research strongly suggests that the development of a comprehensive system will improve patient outcomes and ensure that San Francisco is on par with the other large metropolitan areas in the U.S.

We understand that with the recent passage of the EMS ordinance by the Board of Supervisors the mechanism is now in place for hospitals wishing to participate in such a system to move forward with the next steps in the implementation of comprehensive STEMI patient care. We encourage rapid development of these steps in cooperation and coordination with the hospitals and ambulance providers.

If you have any questions about our support, please feel free to contact me.

Regards,

Arthur Hsieh  
CEO