Dear President Cox;

The Assembly of Delegates of Barnstable County are writing you to express our concern about the elimination of the Paramedics Certificate program at Cape Cod Community College.

According to a 2015 U.S. Census Bureau estimate the median age of Barnstable County is just over 50 years of age, significantly higher than the statewide median age of 39.2 for Massachusetts. As our population ages on Cape Cod the need for health services increases. Health services including the need for hospitals, physicians, nurses, in-home care, ambulance and paramedics are all vital to the well-being of our aging population.

Barnstable County, through operation of the Fire Training Academy, is critically aware of the need to maintain on cape training resources for our current and future emergency response personnel. Without maintaining these resources near at hand our communities who rely on call and volunteer responders will find their source of training and new trained personnel cut off diminishing their ability to provide emergency services. Additionally, without these programs available to provide update training for all emergency responders on Cape Cod, all of the capes population will be placed at risk.

We encourage Cape Cod Community College to re-instate the Paramedics Certificate program. We at Barnstable County are aware of the negative consequences that will occur in health and safety on Cape Cod if these important services are eliminated.

Sincerely,

Suzanne McAuliffe, Speaker
on behalf of the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates