National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
Post Office Box 1400 * Clinton, Mississippi 39060-1400
Phone: 800-34-NAEMT or 601-924-7744 * Fax: 601-924-7325
Website: www.NAEMT.org

November 16, 2011

The Honorable Kent Conrad
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Conrad:

On behalf of the membership of the **National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT)**, thank you for your sponsorship of the ***Craig Thomas Rural Hospital and Provider Equity Act of 2011*** **(S. 1680)** to provide desperately needed rural ambulance relief. We strongly support your efforts and those of your fellow Senators Pat Roberts, Tom Harkin, and John Barrasso to ensure that rural ambulance service providers receive additional relief immediately so that these providers can continue to furnish high quality health care to their communities.

Formed in 1975 and more than 32,000 members strong, NAEMT is the nation's only organization solely dedicated to representing the professional interests of all EMS practitioners, including paramedics, emergency medical technicians, first responders and other professionals working in pre-hospital emergency medicine. NAEMT members work in all sectors of EMS, including government service agencies, fire departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations settings, and in the military.

According to the May 2007 GAO report on the costs of providing ambulance services, rural ambulance service providers are reimbursed on average 6% below the cost of providing services to Medicare patients. Providers in "super rural" areas are reimbursed a staggering 17% below their costs. Your legislation would temporarily correct these problems by extending and raising temporary increases for rural providers and extending the bonus payment for "super rural" providers.

Again, we thank Senators Roberts, Harkin, Barrasso and you for your efforts to secure critically needed rural Medicare ambulance relief.

Sincerely,

Connie A. Meyer, President

Connie Meyer
President, NAEMT