



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS
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June 29, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Leahy,

On behalf of the membership of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT), thank you for introducing the *Dale Long Emergency Medical Services Provider Protection Act*. We strongly support your efforts to ensure that the survivors of paramedics and emergency medical technicians who die in the line of duty and who are employed by nonprofit ambulance service agencies are eligible for death benefits under the Public Safety Officers' Benefit program. Your legislation will provide piece of mind to thousands of emergency medical service (EMS) practitioners and their families.

Across our nation, those who provide emergency medical services, including first responders, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics are unique individuals, just like the communities they serve. Communities are served by governmental and non-profit agencies, as well as by for-profit agencies. There is one characteristic, however, that is constant. When there is an emergency, all EMS practitioners, regardless of by whom they are employed, are willing to put their lives on the line. We therefore applaud your leadership to make EMS practitioners employed by nonprofit agencies eligible for federal death benefits and encourage you to ensure that eventually all EMS practitioners are covered.

We greatly appreciate all of your efforts and those of Greg Cota of your staff on this important issue. Greg has worked tirelessly on your behalf and the EMS practitioners and constituents of Vermont. Again, thank you for introducing this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Patrick F. Moore
President, NAEMT