

Promote Patient-Centered, Quality & Efficient Field EMS

Talking Points for Meetings with Members of Congress

Strengthen Field EMS at the Federal, State, and Local Levels

- The Institute of Medicine in 2006 identified critical challenges facing field EMS:
 - insufficient coordination
 - disparities in response times
 - lack of readiness and inadequate federal funding for disaster preparedness
 - divided professional identification of EMS personnel
 - a limited evidence base of emergency medical interventions.¹
- The *Field EMS Quality, Innovation, Cost-Effectiveness Improvement Act* (H.R. 3144), introduced on October 7, 2011 by Representatives Tim Walz (D-MN) and Sue Myrick (R-NC), addresses many of the challenges plaguing field EMS.
- H.R. 3144 will better enable EMS to fulfill public expectations that all Americans can depend upon high quality care and transport to the right setting no matter where they live.
- H.R. 3144 would implement a number of the IOM's recommendations, including the designation of HHS as the primary federal agency for EMS to better integrate EMS within the larger health system, and consolidate federal EMS and trauma programs into one office within HHS.
- H.R. 3144 would also provide for grant programs for EMS agencies, states and educational entities; enhance EMS research initiatives; and promote high quality field EMS. The bill would evaluate and test new EMS delivery and payment models with the goal of improving outcomes and lowering costs.
- H.R. 3144 does not add to the federal deficit. New grant programs would be funded by voluntary contributions made by taxpayers when filing their federal income tax forms.

House Meeting Request

- I respectfully request that you cosponsor the *Field EMS Quality, Innovation, and Cost-Effectiveness Improvements Act of 2011 (H.R. 3144)*, introduced by Representatives Tim Walz (D-MN) and Sue Myrick (R-NC).
- To cosponsor H.R. 3144, please have a member of your staff contact Leah Rosales with Representative Walz' office.

Senate Meeting Request

- I respectfully request that you support efforts to promote and cosponsor similar legislation once a companion bill is introduced in the Senate.

¹ 2006 Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report, "Emergency Medical Services: At the Crossroads"