Open Letter from Congressman Tim Walz (D-MN):

In 2007, it was brought to my attention that there was no formal EMS Caucus in the House and no organized effort focused on the first response medical community. In 2008, I worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to found the EMS Caucus. I am proud of the work we have accomplished and look forward to facing new challenges.

When a father or a mother, sister or brother, husband or wife, friend or teacher calls 9-1-1, we take for granted that someone will be on the other end and help will show up within minutes. In reality, a lot more goes on behind the scenes to make that a reality in our communities. My job in Congress is to help ensure that our neighborhood heroes have the resources they need to save lives.

Despite the growing body of evidence documenting the value of emergency medical care in improving patient outcomes and/or cost effectiveness for heart, stroke, and respiratory emergencies, as well as pediatric and trauma care, EMS and trauma care remains significantly underfunded and are severely challenged to best serve patients. Congressional support for emergency medical and trauma care is needed now more than ever.

The EMS Caucus will help promote, educate and increase awareness around the federal policy issues impacting EMS providers.

Our Caucus focuses on what we can do to make sure the EMS community has the resources they need and can operate efficiently and effectively. In addition to advocating for legislation related to emergency medical services, this Caucus will continue to provide a forum for members of Congress to raise public awareness of issues facing EMS personnel. Part of that effort is educating other Members of Congress and their staff on these important issues and working with EMS partners to host briefings or send letters with valuable information.

With your support, I pledge to continue to fight for better care, lower health care costs, and increased efficiency within the EMS community. Below is a list of current Caucus Members. If you would like your Member of Congress to join, please give them a call and have them contact Carina Marquez-Barrientos in my office at carina.marquez@mail.house.gov.

Thank you for your unyielding dedication to providing world-class, live-saving, emergency care.