JOIN THE
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) CAUCUS

Support the Promotion of Federal Policy Issues Affecting EMS

Dear Colleague:

I would like to invite you to join the EMS Congressional Caucus to promote emergency medical services and the life-saving care they deliver to all patients with emergency medical conditions.

Emergency Medical Services encompasses emergency medical and trauma care provided to patients at any point in the continuum of health care services. Emergency Medical Services provides services for a wide range of emergency medical conditions (including trauma, stroke and cardiac) to 9-1-1 call emergencies, first response, field medical response, medical transport, hospital treatment and patient rehabilitation. Emergency Medical Services saves lives and is a unique and critical part of the healthcare delivery system.

“Field EMS” refers to emergency medical response and mobile medical services provided prior to or outside a medical facility. Field EMS transport nearly 25 million people each year to a medical facility, providing the potentially lifesaving medical care the patient needs during emergency situations before they can make it to a hospital. Many times, the care the patient receives in an ambulance is the difference between life and death. And it’s not just me saying it; multiple federal authorities, including the Institute of Medicine, White House Council on Homeland Security, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council, have documented and validated the difference EMS makes in saving a patient’s life.

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, which can present serious challenges to responders in the field, and possibly harm patients in need of life-saving, urgent medical care, in the process.

Congressional support for emergency medical and trauma care is needed now more than ever. The Congressional EMS Caucus will bring a more disciplined focus on these issues and form a more collective and cohesive bipartisan message on EMS issues to support EMS providers nationwide. The EMS Caucus will help promote, educate and increase awareness around the federal policy issues impacting EMS providers and practitioners. Please join me in supporting this essential public function in the health care continuum.

For additional information or to join the EMS Caucus, please contact Aly Lubov in my office at aly.lubov@mail.house.gov or 202-225-2472.

Sincerely,

Tim Walz
Member of Congress