

EMS Makes a Difference: Join the EMS Caucus

Support the Promotion of Federal Policy Issues Affecting EMS

Request:

We are asking all members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join the Congressional EMS Caucus. Please have a member of your staff contact Aly Lubov (Aly.Lubov@mail.house.gov) with Representative Tim Walz (D-MN) to help promote emergency medical services and the life-saving care they deliver to all patients with emergency medical conditions.

Background:

Emergency medical services (EMS) makes a difference for millions of Americans. EMS encompasses emergency medical and trauma care provided to patients at any point in the continuum of health care services. EMS provides services for a wide range of emergency medical conditions (including trauma, stroke and cardiac) from answering 9-1-1 calls, first response, field medical response, medical transport, hospital treatment and rehabilitation. EMS saves lives and is a unique and critical part of the healthcare delivery system. EMS is a public benefit provided by both governmental and non-governmental providers that citizens assume will always be there to serve them. "Field EMS" refers to emergency and mobile medical services provided to patients prior to or outside of a medical facility; "hospital EMS" refers to emergency medical care provided *inside* the hospital, such as in the hospital emergency department; "trauma care" encompasses initial field care, and subsequent care provided by a trauma center within a hospital. Field EMS providers conduct nearly 25 million transports for more than 8% of the US population per year, predominantly by ground but also by air, to hospitals and trauma centers.

Multiple authorities including the Institute of Medicine (IOM), National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS), and National Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (NEMSAC) have described the difference that EMS makes for patients. Despite the growing body of evidence documenting the value emergency medical care in improved 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.

Benefits and Objectives of the EMS Caucus:

EMS providers throughout the country face a broad array of federal policy, reimbursement and regulatory issues that span across a number of committee jurisdictions in the House of Representatives. The creation and support of a robust Congressional EMS Caucus will bring a more disciplined focus on these issues and form a more collective and cohesive bipartisan message on EMS issues and to support EMS providers nationwide. The Congressional EMS Caucus will help promote, educate, and increase awareness among decision-makers on the federal policy issues affecting EMS providers. Congressional support for emergency medical and trauma care at the federal level is needed now more than ever.