

Please Support H.R. 2366, the Field EMS Modernization and Innovation Act

Request

Please support H.R. 2366, the Field EMS Modernization and Innovation Act introduced by Congressman Larry Buschon (R-IN) to modernize our emergency medical system from an antiquated system to one that is innovative, patient-centered and highly integrated.

Background

The legislation would modernize our nation's EMS system into an innovative, patient-centered and efficient system that underscores value as the cornerstone for improving the quality and outcomes of patient care, and lowering healthcare costs. H.R. 2366 addresses many of the challenges EMS systems face while trying to fulfill public expectations that all who need EMS can depend upon the highest quality of care and transport to the most appropriate clinical setting. This is the first bill to seriously look at Field EMS issues since the 1960's, and would improve access to essential and life-saving EMS and better integrate Field EMS within the larger healthcare system.

As the nation faces increasing healthcare costs, there is significant opportunity for Field EMS systems to be part of the solution and help reduce the incidence of costly care for unscheduled patients. Field EMS can reduce downstream emergency department and hospitalization costs while increasing patient care quality and safety by effectively navigating patients down a medically appropriate and cost-effective pathway that is evidence-based.

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) in its 2006 report "*Emergency Medical Services at the Crossroads*" outlined systemic problems plaguing Field EMS that impede achievement of a 21st Century emergency care system including: insufficient coordination among EMS providers, disparities in response times, uncertain quality of care, lack of readiness for disasters and inadequate federal funding for disaster preparedness, divided professional identity of EMS personnel, and significantly, a limited evidence base of emergency medical interventions.

To address the systemic issues facing Field EMS, H.R. 2366 will:

- Clarify HHS as the lead agency for emergency medical care as recommended by IOM (HHS is already the lead for public health emergencies); facilitate a national field EMS strategy and codify a 2007 Presidential Directive to establish an Office of Emergency Medical Care at HHS;
- Establish the evaluation of Field EMS alternative delivery models and a voluntary quality incentive program with the goal of improving outcomes and lowering costs;
- Establish grant opportunities for providers that demonstrates need to improve preparedness response; enhances medical oversight through physician-led guidelines and identifies impediments to quality improvement; and establishes a grant program to recognize Field EMS as a health profession to ensure the availability, quality and capability of Field EMS practitioners, managers, medical directors and educators;

- Require the Secretary to evaluate the extent to which research related to Field EMS is conducted across HHS and require the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to establish a Field EMS Evidence-Based Center of Excellence.

Cost

The legislation does not add to the federal deficit. It establishes an Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund to be funded by voluntary contributions made by taxpayers when filing their federal income tax forms for the purpose of funding the programs provided in the bill.

Current Co-Sponsors

Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO), Rep. John Carney (D-DE), Rep. James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), Rep. Collin Peterson (D-MN), Rep. David Scott (D-GA), Rep. David Roe (R-TN), Rep. Todd Rokita (R-IN), Rep. Sam Graves (R-MO), Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI), Rep. Scott DesJarlais (R-TN), Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN), Rep. Doug Lamborn (R-CO), Rep. Andre Carson (D-IN), Rep. James McGovern (D-MA), Rep. Joseph Heck (R-NV).

H.R. 2366 is endorsed by:

American College of Emergency Physicians, Arkansas Governor's Advisory Council, Association of Critical Care Transport, American Heart Association, Arizona College of Emergency Physicians, Gold Cross/Mayo Ambulance, Indiana EMS Association, Kansas Emergency Medical Services Association, Local I-60 International Association of Fire Fighters (Arizona), Louisiana Association of Nationally Registered EMTs, Minnesota Ambulance Association, Missouri Ambulance Association, Missouri Emergency Medical Services Association, MONOC Mobile Health Services, National Association of EMS Educators, National Association of EMS Physicians, National EMS Management Association, Nebraska EMS Association, New Hampshire Association of EMTs, New Jersey Association of Paramedic Programs, North Dakota EMS Association, Ohio EMS Chiefs Association, The Paramedic Foundation, Professional Ambulance Association of Wisconsin, South Carolina EMS Association, South Dakota EMS Association, Taney County Ambulance District, Tennessee Ambulance Services Association, Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Association.

Contact

To cosponsor H.R. 2366, please contact Jeffrey Lucas (jeffrey.lucas@mail.house.gov) with Rep. Bucshon's office.