

Please Support H.R. XX, The Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs Act (SIREN Act)

Request

Please support H.R. XX, *The Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs Act* (SIREN Act) introduced by Congressman Greg Gianforte (R-MT) and Congressman Dave Loebsack (D-IA) to create a grant program for public and non-profit EMS agencies in rural areas, many of which are at the forefront of the opioid epidemic— to support the recruitment, retention, education, and equipment for EMS personnel specifically in rural areas.

Background

Rural EMS agencies face unique challenges in delivering quality patient care to the communities in their area. While patients in rural areas have the same acute and chronic medical conditions requiring EMS response, treatment, and transport, the operational and geographic challenges for rural EMS agencies make patient care even more difficult. Rural EMS agencies may be the only healthcare providers in their area. Most rural agencies also face challenges in personnel recruitment and retention, providing continuing education and preparedness training, purchasing updated equipment, maintaining adequate coverage during prolonged transport times, obtaining qualified medical oversight, and are increasingly filling the gap left by the elimination or reduction of community healthcare resources.

H.R. XX reauthorizes the Rural Emergency Medical Service Training and Equipment Assistance Program of the Public Health Service Act and calls for \$10 million in grants to rural public and non-profit EMS agencies to be distributed in fiscal years 2018 through 2022.

Cost

The SIREN Act updates and re-authorizes a pre-existing grant program that was earmarked through Department of Health and Human Services' Rural EMS Training and Equipment Assistance Program. The amount of the grant in H.R. XX is \$10 million.

Contact

To learn more about H.R. XX or to cosponsor, please contact Will Carraco (Rep. Greg Gianforte) at will.carraco@mail.house.gov or William Collier (Rep. Dave Loebsack) at William.Collier@mail.house.gov.