



August 13, 2010

The Honorable Kent Conrad  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Conrad,

On behalf of the memberships of the American Ambulance Association (AAA) and the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT), thank you for introducing the *Strengthening Community Service Act of 2010*. We strongly support your efforts to establish a grant program to reimburse public safety agencies for additional expenses incurred when a police officer, firefighter, paramedic or emergency medical technician (EMT) who is in the National Guard or Reserves is deployed for active military duty. Your legislation will help ensure that public safety agencies continue to have the resources needed to serve their communities as public safety personnel serve our country.

We especially appreciate your willingness to ensure during times of personnel deployment that all communities will have additional funding for emergency medical services regardless of whether the services are provided by a public or private non-profit or for-profit emergency ambulance service agency. Many communities around the country have chosen a private non-profit or for-profit ambulance service agency to serve their residents with emergency medical services. It is imperative that these communities not be disadvantaged just because they have selected a private agency to provide critical and often life saving emergency ambulance services.

The AAA is the primary national trade association for providers of emergency and non-emergency ambulance services. The AAA is comprised of more than 600 ambulance service operations which account for providing services to over 75% of the U.S. population. NAEMT is the nation's largest and oldest organization solely representing the professional interest of all emergency medical service practitioners, including first responders, EMTs and paramedics. NAEMT currently has over 33,000 members representing all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

We greatly appreciate all of your efforts and those of Brandon Teachout of your staff on this important issue. Brandon has worked tirelessly on your behalf and the public safety agencies and constituents of North Dakota. Again, thank you for introducing this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

Jim Finger  
President  
American Ambulance Association

Patrick Moore  
President  
National Association of Emergency Medical  
Technicians