

March 23, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education & Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education & Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As organizations that care deeply about the health and safety of our nation's children, we write to request that you provide \$20,213,000 in funding for the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program at the Health Resources and Services Administration in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Labor, HHS, Education (LHHS) appropriations bill.

The EMSC program has made landmark improvements to the emergency care delivered to our children all across the nation. As the only federal program dedicated to improving emergency care for children, EMSC has brought vital attention and resources to an otherwise neglected population.

Every state has received EMSC funds, which they have used to ensure that hospitals and ambulances are properly equipped to treat pediatric emergencies, to provide pediatric training to paramedics and first responders, and to improve the systems that allow for efficient, effective pediatric emergency medical care. Additionally, EMSC funding has helped to improve pediatric capacity and transport of pediatric patients and address emerging issues such as pediatric emergency care readiness through the National Pediatric Readiness Project and pediatric emergency medical services in rural and remote areas. Initiated in 2016, the EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center is working to accelerate improvements in the quality of care and outcomes for children who are in need of urgent or emergency care through an infrastructure that ensures routine, integrated coordination of quality improvement activities

We are aware of the tough choices appropriators face in the current fiscal environment, and appreciate continued funding of the program. As you prepare the FY 18 LHHS appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you fund the EMSC program at its authorized level of \$20,213,000.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to improve emergency medical services for children across our nation.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Ambulance Association
American College of Emergency Physicians
American Pediatric Society
Association of Maternal & Child Health
Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric
Department Chairs
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Children's National Health System
Children's Health Fund
Emergency Nurses Association
Family Voices

First Focus Campaign for Children
March of Dimes
National Association of Emergency Medical
Technicians
National Association of EMS Physicians
National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Practitioners
National Association of State Emergency
Medical Services Officials
Pediatric Policy Council
Save the Children
Society for Pediatric Research