



Dear House Conferees:

On behalf of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians and our members, thank you for your bipartisan effort to fight, treat, and prevent our nation's opioid epidemic.

As you are negotiating a final package, NAEMT urges you to retain H.R. 1818, the Veterans Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2016 that was included in the package of bills the House passed.

H.R. 1818 would assist military medics transitioning to civilian emergency medical services (EMS). Without a transition program, veteran military medics returning home face steep obstacles to entering the civilian EMS workforce and are unable to contribute their valuable medical skills to their communities.

The EMS workforce is critical to the goal of combating the 28,000 opioid overdose deaths that occurred in 2014 alone. According to the Department of Labor, the demand for EMTs and Paramedics is expected to increase 23 percent by 2020. This expected shortage is on top of some communities already reporting a shortage of EMTs.

H.R. 1818 is a common sense way to help veterans transition into civilian careers, improve public health, and ensure communities have first responders to answer challenging emergency calls like opioid overdoses.

Thank you for your work to ensure our communities and families have the necessary tools they need to put an end to this epidemic.

Sincerely,
NAEMT Board of Directors