



## 2024 HILL DAY TALKING POINTS

### **Please Support FY25 Funding for SIREN Act Grants and S. 265/H.R. 4646, the SIREN Reauthorization Act**

- The SIREN Act created a grant program for public and non-profit EMS agencies and fire departments in rural areas to support the recruitment, retention, education, and equipping of EMS personnel.
- Rural EMS agencies and fire departments often lack the resources to pay for even basic operational needs, and this program is aimed at helping meet some of those needs.
  - Please include \$32 million in the FY2025 budget for SIREN Act grants.
  - This successful program is also due to be reauthorized. The SIREN Reauthorization Act (S. 265/H.R. 4646) would reauthorize SIREN Act grants for an additional five years.
  - S. 265 passed the Senate in December 2023. Please support House passage of H.R. 4646.

### **Please Support EMS Reimbursement for Treatment in Place (TIP)**

- The goal of all healthcare should be to provide patients with the right care, at the right time, and in the most cost-effective manner.
- Current system of reimbursing EMS only if a patient is transported to the emergency department contradicts this goal.
- Reimbursement for TIP would support better patient care and save both hospital and EMS resources, and will allow EMS agencies to implement patient-centric protocols for patients who use the 9-1-1 system but have conditions that can be treated in the comfort of their home.
  - Please support H.R. \_\_\_\_, the Improving Access to Emergency Medical Services Act, soon to be introduced by Rep. Mike Carey, which would create a pilot program to test and evaluate the TIP model under the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI).
  - Please support S. 3236/H.R. 6257, the Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement for On-scene Care and Support Act (EMS ROCS), which would provide Medicare reimbursement for care provided by EMS when no transportation to the hospital is provided.

### **Please Support Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Community Paramedicine (CP) Programs**

- Mobile Integrated Healthcare-Community Paramedicine (MIH-CP) is an innovative way for healthcare professionals to use patient-centered mobile resources outside the hospital environment.
- These programs have been shown to improve patient outcomes and lower healthcare costs, but they are extremely limited by the lack of funding.
  - Please support H.R. \_\_\_\_, the Community Paramedicine Act of 2024, soon to be introduced by Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver, which would create a grant program to support community paramedicine services; award qualified entities up to \$750,000 for individual applications and \$1.5 million for joint applications; and establish an advisory board comprised of national community paramedicine, emergency medical service, and fire service organizations to advise, assist, and peer review grant applications in rural and underserved areas.

### **Please Support the Protecting Access to Ground Ambulance Medical Services Act of 2023**

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) are in the process of gathering cost data collection to update the ambulance fee schedule, but that process has been delayed.
- The current Medicare “add-on” payments expire December 31, 2024. Extending these payments for an additional three years will allow enough time for the cost collection data to be gathered and analyzed so that an informed, long-term solution to the chronic underfunding of the ambulance fee schedule can be adopted.
- Without the extension of these ground ambulance “add-ons,” many ambulance service organizations will not be able to continue serving their communities.
  - Please support S.1673/H.R. 1666, the Protecting Access to Ground Ambulance Medical Services Act of 2023, which would temporarily extend additional reimbursement for ground ambulance services until the Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule is reformed.

### **Please Join the EMS Caucus (*Note: this is a House organization, so this request is for House offices only*)**

- EMS practitioners are specially trained to provide immediate care and assess patient needs to help navigate to the right care in the right setting.
- The EMS Caucus helps promote, educate, and increase awareness around the federal policy issues impacting EMS, and strives to form a cohesive bipartisan effort to support EMS practitioners of all types nationwide.
- The EMS Caucus is co-chaired by Rep. Richard Hudson of North Carolina and Rep. Debbie Dingell of Michigan.
  - Please join the EMS Caucus.