

**Daniel Linkins, MPH, NRP, NCEE**  
**Candidate Statement – NAEMT Board of Directors**

As a long-standing member of NAEMT, I am seeking a position as the Mid-Atlantic Region Director to bring the invaluable perspective of the front-line provider to the forefront of our profession. My journey, from volunteer EMR in rural Mississippi to an urban provider in Virginia, has given me a comprehensive understanding of the diverse realities across our EMS system. I believe the most significant challenge facing our providers today is their limited voice in shaping their own professional landscape.

**Reasons for Seeking the Position:**

- To amplify the voice of "boots-on-the-ground" providers in system-level decision-making.
- To champion a sustainable workforce model that prioritizes professional growth and work-life balance for EMS professionals.
- To ensure NAEMT's core mission of advancing the EMS profession itself is reflected in its daily practice.

**My Goals if Elected:**

- Champion a National Vision for EMS: Advocate for federal decision-makers to understand the true cost and commitment required for emergency readiness, shaping a robust and sustainable EMS system for the United States.
- Empower Practitioners' Professional Ownership: Develop and promote targeted continuing education programs that not only enhance clinical skills but also equip providers with the tools and knowledge to actively shape and lead their profession.
- Amplify the Field Voice in Advocacy: Ensure all NAEMT's political advocacy and policy decisions are directly informed by the experiences and long-term career needs of front-line providers, moving beyond just staffing numbers.

**Key Challenges and Opportunities:** A significant challenge is the current disconnect between agency-level advocacy and the individual provider's professional journey. Many associations appropriately advocate for agencies, but I see a crucial opportunity for NAEMT to intensely focus on the *profession*. This means recognizing that our system is robust enough to honor our volunteer legacy while ensuring a fulfilling career path for all. The NAEMT must be the undeniable advocate for the EMS workforce, fostering an environment where providers desire to stay and grow in the field.

**How NAEMT Should Address These Issues:** NAEMT must actively engage providers in crafting solutions, leveraging their direct experience to inform advocacy efforts. This includes:

- Prioritizing initiatives that enhance provider well-being and career longevity.
- Developing educational pathways that prepare providers for leadership and advocacy roles.
- Championing achievable strategies for workforce sustainability, ensuring that NAEMT's decisions actively consider the career trajectories and professional satisfaction of our field providers, rather than solely focusing on current staffing levels.

**Why I am the Best Candidate:** My diverse background as a rural volunteer, urban practitioner, and an educator with state-level EMS leadership experience provides a unique, holistic perspective. I have championed provider involvement, actively integrating advocacy into my EMT, AEMT, and Paramedic curricula. Many of my students quickly became supervisors, educators, and agency leaders because they understood the importance of action. My commitment is to lead with that example, ensuring the NAEMT Board actively champions the professional development of every EMS provider, making their voices instrumental in shaping the future of our essential profession.