

## **JOIN THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) CAUCUS**

***Support Federal Policy Issues Impacting Medical Care EMS Provides in every Community***

Dear Colleague:

I invite you to become a member of the EMS Caucus for the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. The EMS Caucus promotes the important function of emergency medical services through policies that improve the ability of EMS practitioners to provide life-saving medical care in emergencies, cost-saving care management in non-emergency situations, and disaster and tactical response at any time.

### **EMS strives for zero preventable deaths**

EMS practitioners provide immediate medical care – many times, life-saving care – to prehospital patients.

### **EMS fills the gaps in our nation's healthcare system**

EMS provides communities with cost-effective, 24/7 mobile medical assistance and preventive care. EMS practitioners, in conjunction with physician oversight, are specially trained to assess patient needs and navigate patients based on those needs to the right care, in the right place, and at the right time.

### **EMS is critical to our nation's disaster and mass casualty response**

EMS providers respond to bombings, active shooters, biological threats, and natural disasters. EMS is also critical to our ability to respond to public health crises, including outbreaks of infectious diseases in rural, suburban, and urban areas.

### **Despite its importance to our healthcare system, EMS remains significantly underfunded.**

Inadequate funding can present serious challenges to EMS practitioners in the field and harm patients in need. EMS must be fully integrated into our nation's medical preparedness and response strategy and providers must have the training and equipment necessary to achieve zero preventable deaths.

#### ***Facts:***

- Trauma is the leading cause of death for Americans aged 45 and younger, leading to 147,790 deaths in 2014.
- An estimated 30,000 Americans die each year from traumatic injuries they could have survived with better emergency care.
- EMS is equipped to respond to our nation's emergent, urgent, and preventive healthcare needs and lower our nation's healthcare costs.

Congressional support for EMS is needed now more than ever. The EMS Caucus will bring a more disciplined focus to these issues and form a more collective and cohesive bipartisan message to support EMS practitioners nationwide. The EMS Caucus will help promote, educate, and increase awareness around the federal policy issues impacting EMS and serve as a resource for policy questions.

Please join me in supporting this essential public function in the healthcare continuum. For additional information or to join the EMS Caucus, please contact Samantha Dercher in my office at [samantha.dercher@mail.house.gov](mailto:samantha.dercher@mail.house.gov) or 202-225-2472.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tim Walz", written in a cursive style.

Tim Walz  
Chairman, EMS Caucus