

Achieving a 21st Century Emergency Medical Services System
FIELD EMS MODERNIZATION AND INNOVATION ACT
Talking Points for EMS Hill Day Participants Meetings with Members of Congress

THE PROBLEM: OUR CURRENT FIELD EMS SYSTEM IS BASED ON AN ANTIQUATED MODEL OF TRANSPORT

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) in its 2006 report “Emergency Medical Services at the Crossroads” outlined systemic problems including: insufficient coordination among agencies and providers, disparities in response times, uncertain quality of care, lack of readiness for disasters and inadequate federal funding for disaster preparedness, divided professional identity of field EMS personnel, and significantly, a limited evidence base of emergency medical interventions.

THE SOLUTION: MODERNIZE FIELD EMS TO A 21ST CENTURY QUALITY AND VALUE-BASED SYSTEM

The Field EMS Bill is the first major piece of legislation to address the systemic challenges identified by IOM plaguing the care provided to patients with emergency medical conditions in the field. The bill aims to modernize our emergency medical system from an antiquated system to one that is innovative, patient-centered and highly integrated.

- The legislation would address the systemic problems plaguing Field EMS by:
 - ✓ **Aligning Federal Leadership for Emergency Medical Care:** clarifies HHS as the lead for emergency medical care as recommended by IOM (HHS is already the lead for public health emergencies); facilitates a national field EMS strategy and codifies a 2007 Presidential Directive to establish an Office of Emergency Medical Care at HHS.
 - ✓ **Promotes Innovation and Quality Through Field EMS Reimbursement:** establishes the evaluation of Field EMS alternative delivery models and a voluntary quality incentive program –with the goal of improving outcomes and lowering costs.
 - ✓ **Modernizes Field EMS Capability:** establishes grant opportunities for providers that demonstrate need to improve preparedness response; enhances medical oversight through physician led guidelines and identifies impediments to quality improvement; and establishes a grant program to recognize Field EMS as a health profession to ensure the availability, quality and capability of Field EMS practitioners, managers, medical directors and educators.
 - ✓ **Improves the Evidence-Base of Care in the Field:** requires the Secretary to evaluate the extent to which research related to Field EMS is conducted across HHS and requires the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to establish a Field EMS Evidence-Based Center of Excellence
- **The legislation does not add to the federal deficit.** New programs would be funded by voluntary contributions made by taxpayers when filing their federal income tax forms.

House Meeting Request

- I respectfully request that you cosponsor the *Field EMS Modernization and Innovation Act*.
- To cosponsor the legislation, please have a member of your staff contact Teresa Buckley with Representative Bucshon's office.

Senate Meeting Request

- I respectfully request that you cosponsor the *Field EMS Modernization and Innovation Act*.
- To cosponsor the legislation, please have a member of your staff contact Kelli McConnell in Senator Crapo’s office or Rohini Kosoglu in Senator Bennet’s office.

Last Session’s Sponsors and Co-Sponsors

On your congressional schedules, last year’s co-sponsors are noted as well as the original sponsors in both the House and Senate. Previous co-sponsors should be thanked for their support of the Field EMS Bill and asked to co-sponsor the bill again this session. Please note in the House of Representatives, Dr. Bucshon (R-IN) and Heck (R-NV) are original sponsors. Please thank them for the continued support and leadership. In the Senate, Senators Crapo (R-ID) and Bennet (D-CO) are the original sponsors. Please also thank them for their continued support and leadership.