



January 27, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20501

Dear President Biden,

On behalf of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), and the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT), please accept our deep appreciation for including emergency medical services (EMS) personnel and firefighters to support the vaccination efforts in your *National Strategy for the COVID 19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness* plan.

Encouraging states and local communities to utilize EMS-first responders, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics is critical. We are an existing workforce responding on the frontlines 24/7 and already providing these services to communities across the country.

As stated in your plan, the federal government will support state and local government efforts to enlist EMS agencies to launch community vaccination clinics, building on their critical role and expertise in disaster relief. At the same time, the Administration will work hand-in-hand with states and localities to ensure that first responders nationwide—along with other frontline essential workers, like teachers, school staff and childcare workers, who play such a critical role in our communities every day—have access to the vaccine as quickly as possible.

While we support this proposal to utilize our industry, we are respectfully requesting that funds be made available to reimburse our EMS and firefighter workforce.

Congress has passed crucial pandemic relief and stimulus bills in the last year and now may be considering another relief package; however, these measures did not provide direct funding relief or protection to our nation's EMTs and paramedics. Funds to support the pandemic response are being provided to state government and/or hospitals, which do not trickle down to EMS. For EMS to sustain its services and protect its personnel, we must be reimbursed for our work.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments and look forward to working with you and your Administration as we continue to fight this pandemic.

Sincerely,

International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)  
International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)  
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT)