



December 2, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

Ground ambulance service organizations and fire departments providing life-saving care across the country are facing unprecedented financial crisis. Our members are struggling with chronic inadequate reimbursement under the Medicare ambulance fee schedule combined with increased turnover of personnel, difficulty recruiting new personnel, and higher costs for ambulances, facility maintenance, equipment, and supplies. It is critical that the Congress increase Medicare funding for ground ambulance services and not allow the PAYGO sequester cut to take effect.

The American Ambulance Association (AAA), Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI), International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT), National Rural Health Association (NRHA) and National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) represent the providers of vital emergency and medically necessary non-emergency ground ambulance services and the paramedics, EMTs, firefighters and rural health professionals who lead and deliver the direct medical care and transport for every community across the United States. Our paramedics, emergency medical technicians, firefighters and rural health care professionals are on the front lines of providing vital medical care.

Ground ambulance service organizations and fire departments are already feeling the negative impact from the reinstatement of the 2% sequestration cuts. We implore the Congress to waive the statutory Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) rules and prevent the 4% additional cut to Medicare provider and supplier reimbursement. The addition of a 4% cut for a total of a 6% reduction would require EMS systems to scale back on life-saving emergency ground ambulance services

as well as medically necessary non-emergency services. A 6% cut in Medicare reimbursement would subsequently lead to the deterioration of the infrastructure of our EMS systems and their long-term sustainability.

It is therefore imperative that the Congress ensure that more money is allocated for ground ambulance services and not less.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Ambulance Association
Congressional Fire Services Institute
International Association of Fire Chiefs
International Association of Firefighters
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
National Rural Health Association