



National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
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April 25, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Speaker Ryan,

On behalf of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT), I am writing in strong support of S.1692/H.R. 1037 introduced by Senator Christopher Coons (D-DE) and Congressman Stephen Lynch (D-MA) to authorize the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, to honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's EMS practitioners.

Formed in 1975 and more than 65,000 members strong, NAEMT is the nation's only organization solely dedicated to representing the professional interests of all EMS practitioners, including paramedics, emergency medical technicians, first responders and other professionals working in emergency and mobile healthcare, including government service agencies, fire departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations, and in the military.

EMS practitioners respond to a full spectrum of incidents in the face of all types of hazards - from responding to a medical emergency of a single patient, to responding to naturally occurring or man-made disasters, including active shooter and mass casualty incidents. EMS is a critical element of our nation's disaster and mass casualty response infrastructure. EMS also serves as a health care safety net for our communities by providing emergent, urgent and preventive medical care as the first step of the healthcare continuum.

Each year, 850,000 EMS practitioners respond to more than 30 million calls to serve 22 million patients in need of care at a moment's notice and without reservation. According to the Department of Labor and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, EMS practitioners die in the line of duty at a rate more than twice the national average for all occupational fatalities. During their careers, EMS practitioners experience an injury rate of virtually 100 percent.

NAEMT respectfully requests that S. 1692/H.R. 1037 be placed on the House and Senate calendars for a floor vote in order to create a commemorative EMS Memorial to honor our fallen brothers and sisters.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dennis Rowe, EMT-P
President, NAEMT

cc: Senator Christopher Coons (D-DE)
Congressman Stephen Lynch (D-MA)