



June 27, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
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, Leader McConnell, and Leader McCarthy:

We respectfully request that the Congress extend until the end of this year a moratorium on the 1% sequestration cut to Medicare providers and suppliers scheduled to take effect on July 1. Ground ambulance service organizations and fire departments are struggling financially due to the high costs of fuel, equipment and supplies, and staffing combined with chronic below-cost reimbursement under the Medicare program. Our members are in desperate need of increased Medicare reimbursement, and not less.

The American Ambulance Association (AAA), International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) and National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) represent the providers of vital emergency and non-emergency ground ambulance services and the paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and firefighters who deliver the direct medical care and transport for every community across the United States. Our members are all experiencing the strain of a shortage of paramedics and EMTs, difficulty in obtaining vehicles and certain equipment, and a high use of fuel at skyrocketing prices. With our reimbursement rates locked-in under the Medicare ambulance fee schedule, we are unable to recoup any of these higher costs.

In addition to extending the moratorium, we implore the Congress to waive the PAYGO rules and prevent the 4% additional cut to Medicare provider and supplier reimbursement triggered by the American Rescue Plan. We also ask for the Congress to extend the temporary Medicare ambulance increases of 2% urban and 3% rural and the 22.6% super rural bonus payment which expire at the end of this year. Ground ambulance service organizations are facing a financial cliff at the end of 2022 with potential of significant additional cuts.

Many ground ambulance service organizations and fire departments will continue to struggle without additional reimbursement. Further cuts would require EMS systems to scale back on life-saving emergency ground ambulance services as well as medically necessary non-emergency services. These cuts 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 these cuts are prevented.

Thank you in advance for continuing to help ensure that ground ambulance service organizations and fire departments and our paramedics, EMTs and firefighters have the resources necessary to continue providing critical emergency 9-1-1 and non-emergency care and medical transport, while maintaining the short and long-term viability of EMS in America.

Sincerely,

American Ambulance Association
International Association of Fire Chiefs
International Association of Fire Fighters
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians