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November 3, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations
Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, Senate Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Ranking Member, Senate Labor-HHS-
Education Appropriations Subcommittee
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy, Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Shelby and Ranking Member Blunt:

On behalf of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT), thank you for including \$10 million in the Senate FY2022 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill for the Rural EMS Equipment and Training Assistance (REMSTEA) program under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), also known as SIREN Act grants.

As you work with the FY2022 appropriations bills, we respectfully request the Labor-HHS-Education Conference Report include the Senate level of \$10 million for this critical program.

While our public and nonprofit EMS agencies proudly serve their communities, their resources are often spread thin. Rural EMS especially has long faced challenges in delivering quality emergency medical care, in part due to great distances between healthcare facilities, and low reimbursement rates. COVID-19 exacerbated these challenges faced by rural agencies, especially since rural EMS agencies may be the only healthcare providers in their area. Under normal circumstances, rural agencies rely heavily upon community fundraising efforts. However, stay-at-home orders and other limitations on community gatherings have ground these fundraising efforts to a halt.

SIREN Act grants are designed specifically for rural EMS agencies to help them with activities such as buying PPE for their personnel, providing medical supplies for COVID-19 patients, and recruiting and training more volunteers so they can continue to provide life-saving medical care to critically ill and injured patients in their communities.

**National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
P.O. Box 1400, Clinton, MS 39060-1400**

Thank you for your consideration of this critical request, and for your support of EMS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Evans', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bruce Evans, MPA, NRP, CFO, SPO
President, NAEMT

About NAEMT

Founded in 1975, NAEMT is the nation's only organization that represents and serves the professional interests of all Emergency Medical Services (EMS) practitioners, including paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), emergency medical responders, and other professionals providing pre-hospital and out-of-hospital emergent, urgent, or preventive medical care. NAEMT's over 70,000 members, including over 52,000 members in the U.S., work in all sectors of EMS, including government service agencies, fire departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations settings, and in the military. Specifically, 61% of NAEMT's members are trained as paramedics, 38% are EMTs, and the remaining 1% are physicians, nurses and other prehospital medical professionals. NAEMT serves its members by advocating on issues that impact their ability to provide quality patient care, providing high quality education that improves the knowledge and skills of practitioners, and supporting EMS research and innovation.