

April 19, 2010

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education & Related Agencies  
2358 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey,

As organizations that care deeply about the health and safety of our nation's children, we would like to urge you to provide \$26.250 million for the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program in the Health Resources and Services Administration for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011.

For the past 25 years, the EMSC program has made landmark improvements to the emergency care delivered to our children all across the nation. As the only federal program dedicated to improving emergency care for children, EMSC has brought vital attention and resources to an otherwise neglected population. Every state has received EMSC funds, which they have used to ensure that hospitals and ambulances are properly equipped to treat pediatric emergencies, to provide pediatric training to paramedics and first responders, and to improve the systems that allow for efficient, effective pediatric emergency medical care. It is no coincidence that since the EMSC program was established, death rates due to pediatric injury have dropped by 40 percent.

We are enormously grateful that last year EMSC received its first funding increase in almost a decade, to \$21.5 million. This additional funding has allowed the program to maintain and improve its activities, take advantage of important opportunities, and address emerging threats to child health. EMSC was recently reauthorized through 2014 as part of health care reform legislation. This legislation authorized \$26.250 million for EMSC in FY2011. We urge you to increase the EMSC program's funding to the authorized level to ensure the program's continued success.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to improve emergency medical services for children across our nation.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association  
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of Neurological Surgeons  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians

American College of Surgeons  
American Medical Response  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Pediatric Society  
American Trauma Society  
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs  
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs  
Atlantic EMS Council  
Child Neurology Society  
Children's Health Care is a Legal Duty  
The Children's Health Fund  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Emergency Medical Services Corporation  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Family Violence Prevention Fund  
First Candle  
International Association of EMS Chiefs  
National Association of Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association of Children's Hospitals  
National Association of State EMS Officials  
National Center for Disaster Preparedness  
Orthopaedic Trauma Association  
Safe Kids USA  
Save the Children  
Society for Pediatric Research  
Trust for America's Health  
Voices for America's Children