

July 14, 2009

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
131 Senate Dirksen Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin,

As organizations that care deeply about the health and safety of our nation's children, we would like to urge you to provide \$25 million for the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program in the Health Resources and Services Administration for Fiscal Year 2010.

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.

For the past nine appropriations cycles, the EMSC program has been essentially level-funded at about \$20 million. Given that inflation has increased by two to four percent each of those years, and medical inflation has risen by even greater amounts, the program now has significantly less financial impact than it did at the beginning of the millennium. We urge you to increase the EMSC program's funding to ensure that it can maintain and improve its activities, take advantage of important opportunities, and address emerging threats to child health.

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 Society
Advocates for EMS
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Ambulance Association
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American College of Emergency Physicians

American College of Surgeons
American Osteopathic Association
American Pediatric Society
AO North America
Association of Air Medical Services
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Brain Injury Association of America
Child Neurology Society
Children's Health Fund
Coalition for American Trauma Care
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Critical Illness and Trauma Foundation
Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma
Emergency Medical Services Corporation
Emergency Nurses Association
EMS Magazine
Family Voices
Gold Cross/Mayo Clinic Medical Transport
Intermountain Injury Control Research Center
International Association of Flight Paramedics
March of Dimes
National Association of Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
National Association of EMS Educators
National Association of EMS Physicians
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of State EMS Officials
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Center for Disaster Preparedness
National EMS Information System Technical Assistance Center
National EMS Management Association
National Trauma Data Standard Technical Assistance Center
Orthopaedic Trauma Association
Safe Kids USA
Save the Children
Shock Society
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of Trauma Nurses
Trust for America's Health
Voices for America's Children