

July 14, 2009

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 \$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