

February 29, 2008

The Honorable Edward Kennedy
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Kennedy:

As organizations that care about the quality of emergency medical care provided to children across our nation, we respectfully request that you schedule a markup of S. 60, the Wakefield Act, a bill to reauthorize the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program.

Since its establishment over 20 years ago, the EMSC program has driven major improvements in emergency care for children. Injury-related deaths among children have dropped by 40 percent over that period of time. Enormous strides have been made in areas such as ensuring that all ambulances carry appropriate pediatric equipment and supplies, establishing transfer protocols to assure that severely injured children are sent to the facilities best able to care for them, and collecting and analyzing data on pediatric emergency care to inform future efforts toward improvement.

Although much progress has been made, more remains to be done. The EMSC program's authorization expired in September 2005. S. 60 has bipartisan, bicameral support as well as the endorsement of over 50 organizations. We urge you to place this legislation on the markup calendar as soon as possible to ensure that this program may continue its vital work on behalf of our nation's children.

Thank you for your attention to this request. If any of our organizations may be of further assistance, please contact Cindy Pellegrini with the American Academy of Pediatrics at 202/347-8600.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
Advocates for EMS
Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety
American Academy of Emergency Medicine
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Ambulance Association
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Association for the Surgery of Trauma
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians
American College of Surgeons

American Heart Association
American Orthopsychiatric Association
American Medical Response
American Pediatric Society
American Public Health Association
A O North America
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Brain Trauma Foundation
Child Neurology Society
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Healthcare is a Legal Duty
Coalition for American Trauma Care
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Emergency Nurses Association
Family Violence Prevention Fund
Family Voices
Lincoln Emergency Medical Services, Inc.
March of Dimes
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Children's Hospitals
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
National Association of EMS Educators
National Association of EMS Physicians
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State EMS Officials
National Center for Disaster Preparedness
Orthopedic Trauma Association
Ouray County (CO) EMS
SAFE KIDS Worldwide
Save the Children
Society for Pediatric Research
Society of Trauma Nurses
The Children's Health Fund
Trust for America's Health
Voice for America's Children