

February 29, 2008

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,

We would like to urge the Subcommittee to provide \$25 million for the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program in the Health Resources and Services Administration in Fiscal Year 2009.

The EMSC program drives critical improvements to the emergency care delivered to our children all across the nation. 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. In the 24 years since the program was established, nationwide child injury mortality rates have dropped by over 40 percent.

For the past eight appropriations cycles, the EMSC program has been essentially level-funded at \$19 million. Given that inflation has increased by two to four percent each of those years, 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 such as terrorism.

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

Sincerely,

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 Medical Response
American Orthopsychiatric Association
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
Academic Pediatric Association
Brain Trauma Foundation
Child Neurology Society
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Health Fund
Coalition for American Trauma Care
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Emergency Nurses Association, Kathi Ream
Family Violence Prevention Fund
Family Voices
Lincoln Emergency Medical Services, Inc.
March of Dimes
National Association for 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 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
Trust for America's Health
Voice for America's Children