

February 29, 2008

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education & Related Agencies  
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Specter:

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  
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