

April 26, 2011

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Shelby:

As organizations that care deeply about the health and safety of our nation's children, we would like to urge you to provide \$27,562,500 for the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program in the Health Resources and Services Administration for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012.

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.

We are enormously grateful that in FY 2010 the EMSC received its first funding increase in almost a decade, bringing funding to \$21.5 million. This additional funding has allowed the program to maintain and improve its activities, take advantage of important opportunities, and address emerging threats to child health. We are also grateful for the increase of \$1 million you provided in the FY 2011 Senate appropriations bill. EMSC was recently reauthorized through 2014 as part of the *Affordable Care Act*. This legislation authorized \$27,562,500 for EMSC in FY 2012. We urge you to increase the EMSC program's funding to the authorized level to ensure the program's continued success.

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

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Osteopathic
Emergency Physicians
American College of Surgeons
Children's Health Fund
Children's Healthcare Is a Legal Duty
Emergency Nurses Association

First Candle
March of Dimes Foundation
Michigan State University/Kalamazoo
Center for Medical Studies
National Association of State EMS Officials
Safe Kids USA
Save the Children