March XX, 2015

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education & Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As organizations that care deeply about the health and safety of our nation’s children, we write to request that you provide $21,116,000 in funding for the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program at the Health Resources and Services Administration in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Labor, HHS, Education (LHHS) appropriations bill.

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. Additionally, EMSC funding has helped to improve pediatric capacity and transport of pediatric patients and address emerging issues such as pediatric emergency care readiness and pediatric emergency medical services in rural and remote areas.

We are aware of the tough choices appropriators face in the current fiscal environment, and appreciate continued funding of the program. As you prepare the FY 16 LHHS appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you restore funding of the EMSC program to $21,116,000.

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