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Pediatricians, Emergency Medical Service Providers and Children's Advocates Oppose Proposal to Eliminate Emergency Medical Services for Children Program

Washington, DC—Today is Emergency Medical Services for Children Day, a day to recognize the need for specialized emergency care for children. The federal Emergency Medical Services for Children, or EMSC, Program has been the only federal program dedicated to improving emergency medical care for children. The following organizations join the statement below, opposing President Donald Trump's proposal to eliminate funding for the EMSC program in his fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget: the American Ambulance Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Emergency Physicians, Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs, Children's Health Fund, Emergency Nurses Association, National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, National Association of State EMS Officials, National Center for Disaster Preparedness at the Earth Institute, National EMS Management Association and Save the Children.

“Every year, our organizations, representing pediatricians, emergency medical service providers and children's advocates recognize Emergency Medical Services for Children Day to celebrate the success of a federal program that has made the nation's hospitals more prepared to care for children by having the right equipment, medications and systems in place to provide the most appropriate care possible. This year, we go a step further by speaking out against President Trump's recommendation to defund the EMSC program in his 2018 budget.

“For more than 30 years, the EMSC program has worked to improve the quality of care children receive, no matter where they live or require treatment. Children are not just little adults—emergency services and equipment like ventilation and airway equipment, defibrillators and life-saving drugs need to be sized and dosed especially for children.

“The EMSC program has improved the quality, capability and outcomes of pediatric emergency care, including in pre-hospital EMS systems and hospital emergency departments. The EMSC program funds critical research that aims to improve screening of children in the emergency department for substance use such as opioid dependency as well as the screening of teens at risk for suicidality that may be linked to substance use or mental health disorders. Because of EMSC, nurses and physicians now know how to better manage traumatic brain injuries in children, pediatric seizures and bronchiolitis. The president's budget would have devastating consequences for the progress that has been made to improve pediatric emergency care in the United States.

“Mass casualty events involving children, including this week's tragedy at a concert in England, necessitate advanced planning, training and proper equipment. Thanks to EMSC, our nation's ambulances, EMS personnel

and emergency departments are better equipped and trained to treat children. We reject President Trump's proposal and urge Congress to do the same. We look forward to Congress fully funding the EMSC program in FY 2018 so that children and adolescents are not left behind during their most critical times of need.”

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American Ambulance Association

The AAA was formed in 1979 in response to the need for improvements in medical transportation and emergency medical services. The American Ambulance Association represents hundreds of ambulance services across the United States that participate in emergency and nonemergency care and medical transportation. The Association serves as a voice and clearinghouse for ambulance services, and views prehospital care not only as a public service, but also as an essential part of the total public health care system.

AAA media contact: Amanda Riordan (703-610-9018; ariordan@the-aaa.org)

American Academy of Pediatrics

The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 66,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. For more information, visit www.aap.org and follow us on Twitter @AmerAcadPeds.

AAP media contact: Jamie Poslosky (202-724-3301; jposlosky@aap.org)

American College of Emergency Physicians

ACEP is the national medical specialty society representing emergency medicine. ACEP is committed to advancing emergency care through continuing education, research and public education. Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, ACEP has 53 chapters representing each state, as well as Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. A Government Services Chapter represents emergency physicians employed by military branches and other government agencies.

ACEP media contact: Laura Gore (202-370-9290; lgore@acep.org)

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs is a national resource, partner and advocate for state public health leaders and others working to improve the health of women, children, youth and families, including those with special health care needs. AMCHP's members come from the highest levels of state government and include directors of maternal and child health programs, directors of programs for children with special health care needs and other public health leaders who work with and support state maternal and child health programs.

AMCHP media contact: Patrick Boyle (202-266-3036; pboyle@amchp.org)

Children's Health Fund

Children's Health Fund is committed to delivering high quality health care to America's most disadvantaged children through development and support of innovative, comprehensive primary care programs, eliminating "health barriers to learning", responding to the needs of vulnerable children impacted by major public health crises and improving the health and well-being of children through advocacy and public education efforts.

CHF media contact: John Decarvalho (212-535-9400; jdecarvalho@chfund.org)

Emergency Nurses Association

The Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) is the premier professional nursing association dedicated to defining the future of emergency nursing through advocacy, education, research, innovation, and leadership. Founded in 1970, ENA has proven to be an indispensable resource to the global emergency nursing community. With more than 42,000 members worldwide, ENA advocates for patient safety, develops industry-leading practice standards and guidelines, and guides emergency healthcare public policy. ENA members have expertise in triage, patient care, disaster preparedness, and all aspects of emergency care. Additional information is available at www.ena.org.

ENA media contact: Marie Grimaldi (847-460-4080; marie.grimaldi@ena.org)

National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians

Formed in 1975 and more than 60,000 members strong, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) is the only national association representing the professional interests of all emergency and mobile healthcare practitioners. NAEMT members work in all sectors of EMS, including government agencies, fire departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations settings, and in the military.

NAEMT media contact: Kathleen Taormina (1-800-346-2368; kathleen.taormina@naemt.org)

National Association of State EMS Officials

The National Association of State EMS Officials is the lead national organization for EMS, a respected voice for national EMS policy with comprehensive concern and commitment for the development of effective, integrated, community-based, universal and consistent EMS systems.

NASEMSO media contact: Dia Gainor (703-538-1799, ext. 1702; dia@nasemso.org)

National Center for Disaster Preparedness at the Earth Institute

The National Center for Disaster Preparedness at the Earth Institute works to understand and improve the nation's capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters. NCDP focuses on the readiness of governmental and non-governmental systems; the complexities of population recovery; the power of community engagement; and the risks of human vulnerability, with a particular focus on children.

NCDP media contact: John Tomlin (212-535-9400; jtomlin@chfund.org)

National EMS Management Association

The National EMS Management Association (NEMSMA) is a professional association of EMS leaders dedicated to the discovery, development, and promotion of excellence in leadership and management in EMS systems, regardless of EMS system model, organizational structure or agency affiliation. NEMSMA is an inclusive organization of EMS leaders and managers where all are welcomed regardless of organizational size, corporate structure, ownership, or philosophy.

NEMSMA media contact: John Chamberlin (888-424-9850' info@nemsma.org)

Save the Children

[Save the Children](#) gives children in the United States and around the world a healthy start, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. We invest in childhood — every day, in times of crisis and for our future. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Save the Children media contact: Rich Bland (202-794-1545; RBland@savechildren.org)