



## Overview of 2025 Congressional Requests

### **Support Medicare Reimbursement for EMS Treatment in Place (TIP)**

The goal of all healthcare should be to provide patients with the right care, at the right time, and in the most cost-effective manner. The historical payment model for EMS contradicts this goal by only reimbursing EMS if the most expensive means of response and transport – an ambulance – is used to take patients to the most expensive setting – the emergency department.

Please support the Comprehensive Alternative Response for Emergencies (CARE) Act, soon to be introduced by Reps. Mike Carey (R-OH) and Lloyd Doggett (D-TX). This bill would create a pilot program to test and evaluate the Treatment In Place (TIP) model under the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI). To learn more or to cosponsor, please contact Emily Graeter in Rep. Carey's office at [Emily.Graeter@mail.house.gov](mailto:Emily.Graeter@mail.house.gov) or Afton Cissell in Rep. Doggett's office at [Afton.Cissell@mail.house.gov](mailto:Afton.Cissell@mail.house.gov).

### **Support Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Community Paramedicine (CP) Programs**

MIH-CP is an innovative way for EMTs and Paramedics to provide patient-centered mobile care outside the hospital to lower health care costs and improve patient outcomes. EMS agencies across the nation are partnering with hospitals, primary care physicians, nurses, mental health and social services providers, and government agencies on programs that bring care to patients and help navigate patients to needed services.

Please support the Community Paramedicine Act, soon to be introduced by Rep. Emanuel Cleaver (D-MO) and others. This bill would create a grant program under the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to support Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) Community Paramedicine (CP) programs. Eligible applicants in rural and underserved communities could receive grants to implement these services. To become a cosponsor or to learn more, please contact Brock Boze in Rep. Cleaver's office at [Brock.Boze@mail.house.gov](mailto:Brock.Boze@mail.house.gov).

### **Support FY2026 Funding for SIREN Act Grants**

In small towns, farming communities, and frontier areas, rural EMS agencies are a lifeline to the healthcare system for residents, who on average are older, have higher rates of chronic illness, and lower incomes. Rural EMS agencies often are forced to rely on community donations to supplement limited funding from municipal or county governments. While these donations help rural EMS agencies and fire departments maintain their operations, they have not kept pace with the rising costs that these agencies face. In many communities, EMS agencies have been forced to close their doors completely.

The Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs (SIREN) Act created a grant program specifically for rural public and non-profit EMS agencies and fire departments to purchase equipment, provide training, and meet other critical needs, called the Rural EMS Training and Equipment Assistance (REMSTEAs) grant program.

Please submit a programmatic funding request to the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee to support \$33 million for SIREN Act grants in FY2026.

### **Support EMS Workforce Development**

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is facing crippling staffing challenges that threaten the availability of critical emergency healthcare services. The shortage of EMTs and Paramedics is resulting in longer 9-1-1 response times and delays in interfacility transfers, putting patients who need urgent health care at unacceptable risk. This shortage was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, but it is a long-term problem that has been building for over a decade.

Please cosponsor H.R. 2220, the Preserve Access to Rapid Ambulance Medical Treatment (PARAMT) Act, introduced by Reps. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA) and Brad Finstad (R-MN), which would help address the Paramedic and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) shortage. To become a cosponsor or to learn more, please contact Kat Gillespie in Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez's office at [Katherine.Gillespie@mail.house.gov](mailto:Katherine.Gillespie@mail.house.gov) or Meagan Daly in Rep. Finstad's office at [Meagan.Daly@mail.house.gov](mailto:Meagan.Daly@mail.house.gov).

### **Ensure all EMS Practitioners are Counted**

EMS consists of a diverse group of first responders and health care practitioners who often serve in dual roles, including Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), and dual-role Firefighter/EMTs and Firefighter/Paramedics. The current structure of the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) – the system used by the Department of Labor (DOL) Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) – has led to an undercounting of EMS personnel due to the exclusion of dual-role firefighter/EMS personnel.

Please support the EMS Counts Act, soon to be introduced by Rep. GT Thompson (R-PA) and Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME). This bill would require DOL/BLS to make changes to the SOC system to accurately count the total number of EMS practitioners by accounting for those who also serve as firefighters. To learn more about the EMS Counts Act or to cosponsor, please contact Brian Arata in Rep. Thompson's office at [Brian.Arata@mail.house.gov](mailto:Brian.Arata@mail.house.gov) or Katherine Huiskes in Sen. Collins' office at [Katherine.Huiskes@collins.senate.gov](mailto:Katherine.Huiskes@collins.senate.gov).

### **Extend Medicare Ground Ambulance Add-On Payments**

Medicare currently provides temporary 2% urban, 3% rural, and 22.6% "super rural" add-on payments for ambulance services. These payments, which are set to expire on September 30, 2025, are essential to ensuring all patients have access to vital emergency and non-emergency care, but they still do not bring Medicare payment rates up to a level that covers the full cost of providing services.

Please support H.R. 2232, the Protecting Access to Ground Ambulance Medical Services Act, introduced by Reps. Claudia Tenney (R-NY) and Terri Sewell (D-AL), which would extend the add-on payments at their current levels of 2% urban, 3% rural, and 22.6% super rural until December 31, 2027, and support efforts to further raise add-on percentages. To learn more or to cosponsor H.R. 2232, please contact Jack Boyd in Rep. Tenney's office at [Jack.Boyd@mail.house.gov](mailto:Jack.Boyd@mail.house.gov) or Cameryn Blackmore in Rep. Sewell's office at [Cameryn.Blackmore@mail.house.gov](mailto:Cameryn.Blackmore@mail.house.gov).

### **Please support the [EMS Caucus](#) by joining or continuing your participation (House offices only)**

The Congressional EMS Caucus, Co-Chaired by Reps. Richard Hudson (R-NC) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI), focuses on EMS issues and strives to form a cohesive bipartisan message in support for the EMS profession and patients nationwide. The EMS Caucus helps promote, educate, and increase awareness among decision-makers on the federal EMS policy. To join the Caucus, contact William Seabrook in Rep. Dingell's office at [William.Seabrook@mail.house.gov](mailto:William.Seabrook@mail.house.gov) or Alex Stepahin in Rep. Hudson's office at [Alex.Stepahin@mail.house.gov](mailto:Alex.Stepahin@mail.house.gov).