

March 30, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education & Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education & Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As organizations that care deeply about the health and safety of our nation's children, we write to thank you for the \$2,172,000 increase in funding that was provided for the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program at the Health Resources and Services Administration in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Omnibus bill. We ask that you provide a similar increase in funds for FY 2019 and appropriate \$24,506,000 for the EMSC program in the FY 2019 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 through the National Pediatric Readiness Project and pediatric emergency medical services in rural and remote areas. Initiated in 2016, the EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center is working to accelerate improvements in the quality of care and outcomes for children who are in need of urgent or emergency care through an infrastructure that ensures routine, integrated coordination of quality improvement activities

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 19 LHHS appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you fund the EMSC program at \$24,506,000.

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

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Ambulance Association  
American College of Emergency Physicians  
American College of Surgeons  
American Pediatric Society  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Medical School Pediatric  
Department Chairs  
Children's Health Fund  
Children's Hospital Association  
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Family Voices  
First Focus Campaign for Children

March of Dimes  
National Association of County and City Health  
Officials  
National Association of Emergency Medical  
Technicians  
National Association of EMS Physicians  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of State EMS Officials  
National EMS Management Association  
Save the Children  
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
The Paramedic Foundation  
Pediatric Policy Council  
Society for Pediatric Research