

January 12, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi,

On behalf of the below organizations that represent almost the entire emergency medical services (EMS) and ambulance industry in the United States, we are writing in support of H.R. 3729, the Comprehensive Operations, Sustainability, and Transport Act of 2017 which would extend the 2% urban, 3% rural, and the 22.6% super rural bonus payments for five years.

Unfortunately, on December 31, the current extension of the Medicare Ambulance Add-On Payments expired. The loss of these supplemental payments places a significant burden on EMS agencies across the nation. H.R. 3729 will restore this important funding source and enable our industry to continue providing the quality and accessible patient care that all our communities deserve.

Our organizations urge Congress to immediately pass H.R. 3729 in order to restore and extend these critical payments for EMS agencies that consistently deliver essential, life-saving services to millions of ill and injured patients each year. In addition, we ask that H.R. 3729 include an amended offset equal to the Congressional Budget Office's most recent cost estimate of the bill as well as a retroactive reinstatement of the Add-On Payments to January 1, 2018.

We sincerely thank you and the Ways and Means Committee leadership for working diligently with industry stakeholders to develop H.R. 3729. Our organizations are grateful for your efforts to improve pre-hospital emergency medical care. We look forward to continuing to work with you to support the EMS industry across the United States.

Sincerely,
Academy of Integrated Mobile Healthcare
Congressional Fire Services Institute
International Association of EMS Chiefs
International Association of Fire Chiefs
International Association of Fire Fighters
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
National Volunteer Fire Council

Alexandria Bay (NY) Volunteer Fire Department
Broome (NY) Volunteer Emergency Squad
Central EMS (GA)
Chenango (NY) Ambulance Services, Inc
CHS Mobile Integrated Healthcare, Inc. (NY)
Clark County (NV) Fire Department
Colesville (NY) Volunteer Ambulance Service

Deposit (NY) Fire Department, First Aid, and Rescue Company
East Area (NY) Volunteer Emergency Service, Inc.
Edwards Ambulance (NY)
Erway Amnulance (NY)
Evan Mills (NY) Volunteer Ambulance Squad
Gates (NY) Volunteer Ambulance Service
Gouverneur (NY) Volunteer Rescue Squad
Greece (NY) Volunteer Ambulance Service, Inc.
Greene (NY) Emergency Squad, Inc.
Guilfoyle (NY) Ambulance Service, Inc
Indian River (NY) Ambulance Service Inc.
Kunkel Ambulance (NY)
Maine (NY) Emergency Squad, Inc
Maricopa Ambulance (AZ)
Medshore Ambulance (SC)
MedStar Mobile Healthcare (TX)
North Area (NY) Volunteer Ambulance Corps
Northern Onondaga (NY) Volunteer Ambulance, Inc.
Ogdensburg (NY) Fire Department
Ogdensburg (NY) Volunteer Rescue Squad
Potsdam (NY) Volunteer Rescue Squad
Puckett EMS (GA)
Priority Ambulance (Multiple States)
Seals Ambulance (IN)
Shoals Ambulance (AL)
Skaneateles (NY) Ambulance Volunteer Emergency Services
Trans Am Ambulance (NY)
Union (NY) Volunteer Emergency Squad
Ute Pass (CO) Regional Paramedic Service
Vestal (NY) Volunteer Emergency Squad, Inc
Western Area (NY) Volunteer Emergency Services, Inc.
Windsor Emergency Services, Inc (NY)
Watertown (NY) Ambulance Service, Inc

CC: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, United States Senate
The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Minority Leader, United States Senate