Dear **XXXXX**

Our organization provides vital and often life-saving emergency and non-emergency ambulance services to the communities of **[NAMES OF CITIES/TOWNS].** Our paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMT) are responding to calls involving potential cases of the coronavirus (COVID-19) as well as assisting hospitals and other medical professionals with efforts to contain its spread. However, we need additional funding and resources to ensure our communities can address the pandemic and for us to immediately mitigate its increased costs our operations.

As Congress finalizes the third economic stimulus package in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19, I ask for the **[SENATOR OR REPRESENTATIVE]** to support provisions that help America’s emergency medical service (EMS) providers and personnel who are on the front line of providing medical care and transport to patients with COVID-19. Specifically, I request that you advocate for inclusion in the package of the following provisions.

* Ensure all EMS first responders including, governmental, nongovernmental, nonprofit, and volunteer providers and personnel are covered in applicable provisions of the package by using the definition of “emergency response providers” from the Homeland Security Act of 2002.
* Reimburse ambulance service providers and suppliers for overtime wages paid to employees and other labor and additional costs necessary to provide emergency ground ambulance services during an emergency with respect to COVID-19.
* Authorize CMS to reimburse ambulance service providers and suppliers for performing protocol-driven non-reimbursable medical services in responding to COVID-19 cases and transporting patients to facilities other than hospitals.
* Provide a payroll tax holiday for all ambulance service providers and suppliers either through the end of the pandemic or Calendar Year 2020.
* Give emergency response providers priority access along with other emergency medical professionals to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). To ensure that emergency response providers are sufficiently equipped to handle the surge capacity and capability to respond to the spread of COVID-19, ambulance providers and suppliers need priority access to personal protective equipment (such as N95 masks, face shields, OSHA gowns and surgical masks).
* Establish an above-the-line tax deduction for up to $1,000 for expenses incurred by emergency response provider personnel for training and uniforms. The U.S. House of Representatives passed this provision on December 19, 2019 as part of the Restoring Tax Fairness for States and Localities Act (H.R. 5377).
* Add COVID-19 as an infectious disease under the Public Safety Officers’ Benefit (PSOB) and extend coverage during the pandemic to paramedics and EMTs employed by a private ambulance service (pursuant to H.R. 2887) who die from COVID-19.

Thank you in advance for helping ensure that EMS providers and personnel have the resources they need to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the funding necessary to maintain the short and long-term viability of our operations.

Sincerely,