Dear **[SENATOR or REPRESENTATIVE] [LAST NAME]**:

Our organization, **[YOUR ORGANIZATION NAME]**, is on the frontlines of the COVID-19 public health emergency providing emergency 9-1-1 and non-emergency ground ambulance services. Everyday our paramedics and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are treating, transporting and testing potential COVID-19 patients. However, we are not receiving the level of funding that reflects our role as frontline healthcare services and we are struggling with the financial impact of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**[INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW YOUR ORGANIZATION IS RESPONDING TO THE PANDEMIC AND THE CHALLENGES YOU FACE]**

***We respectfully request that you advocate for the inclusion of more funding for ground ambulance service organizations in the next legislative package on COVID-19 relief.***

While our costs have increased exponentially in response to COVID-19, our revenue has decreased as we maintain full readiness to combat the pandemic and continue to provide 24-hour vital non COVID-19-related ambulance services, but with fewer transports. Our costs for personal protection equipment (PPE), overtime pay, and other expenses directly related to COVID-19 are increasing.

We need to respond to every call prepared as if the patient has COVID-19. However, in many instances the medical care is only covered if the patient is transported to a facility.

At the same time, there is a sharp decline in the normal response and transport volume as Americans are reluctant to call 9-1-1 for non-COVID-19 medical emergencies and as hospitals postpone most non-elective surgeries and related medically necessary transports. Simply put, our costs are increasing as we expend the resources necessary to address COVID-19 as our revenue across the board is decreasing.

While we appreciate the funding we have received thus far under the general allocation of the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF), the money covered just 3 weeks of our operating expenses. The American Ambulance Association estimates that ground ambulance service organizations combined have received just $270 million of the $50 billion of the general allocation yet we are frontline medical providers during the public health emergency.

In communities across America, patients rely on us around the clock for an immediate response to every call for help regardless of ability to pay. Our organization needs immediate financial relief to maintain current staffing and resources to address the COVID-19 outbreak and ensure we can continue to provide vital emergency and non-emergency ambulance services today and in the future.

* ***Provide sufficient direction to the Department of Health and Human Services to assure that the critical financial needs of ground ambulance service organizations.***Losses due to COVID-19 on a per ambulance basis are approximately $48,000 or $2.89 billion as an industry, reflecting increased costs, lower utilization and uncompensated care as well as lack of coverage for treatment in place to avoid taking patients to emergency departments. However, ground ambulance service organizations have received only one-tenth of that amount so far under the PHSSEF which means we still need an additional $2.62 billion.
* ***Provide a waiver to allow CMS to reimburse ground ambulance service providers and suppliers for performing protocol-driven treatments in place during the public health emergency.***This coverage will help limit the spread of COVID-19 by keeping patients with mild cases of COVID-19 at home and out of overcrowded hospitals or other facilities where they could expose others to the virus.

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

Sincerely,

[YOUR NAME]