

2020 Legislative Priorities



As the Senate develops its next economic stimulus legislation to address the impact of COVID-19, we need legislative language that helps the EMS industry and ambulance services across the country during these unprecedented times.

Ambulance Funding in Response to COVID-19

- Allocate a total of \$2.89 billion under the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (PHSSEF) for ground ambulance service organizations to account for increased costs, uncompensated care and lost revenue related to COVID-19.
- Ensure all EMS first responders including private for-profit, 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.

Expansion of Treatment in Place Coverage

- 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. 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.

Priority PPE Access

- 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).

Allow Private For-Profit EMS Providers to Apply Directly for FEMA Grants

- Allow private for-profit EMS agencies to apply directly to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Public Assistance program grants during the Public Health Emergency and waive the matching requirement for emergency response providers. This will allow all EMS agencies to apply for financial assistance and for state and local governments to focus their limited resources on directly combating the pandemic.

Expand Public Safety Officer Benefits (PSOB)

- 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.

