



August 9, 2021

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

Thank you for your continued support of front-line medical workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and firefighters, as well as the organizations that they serve, take on substantial risk every day to treat, transport, and test potential COVID-19 patients, and play a vital role in providing vaccinations to individuals in their homes. Ambulance service organizations and fire departments, however, urgently need you to distribute the remaining monies from the Provider Relief Fund to help offset the increased costs and lower revenue resulting from our vital response to the pandemic.

The American Ambulance Association (AAA), Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI), International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT), and National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) represent the providers of vital emergency and non-emergency ground ambulance services and the paramedics, EMTs and firefighters who deliver the direct medical care and transport for every community across the United States. We have all experienced the strain on our services and need additional financial assistance and support as we remain the frontline responders to our nation's coronavirus patients.

Our costs of operating have increased exponentially in response to COVID-19, as we maintain full readiness to combat the pandemic and continue to provide 24-hour vital non-COVID-19-related services. Our costs for personal protective equipment (PPE), overtime pay, and other expenses directly related to COVID-19 remain high. At a time when we are facing considerable economic strain due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, we respectfully urge you to expedite the distribution of the approximately \$22 billion remaining in the general fund of the Provider Relief and the additional \$8.5 billion specifically for rural health care providers and suppliers. We also ask that you ensure we receive a percentage of the remaining funds that reflects our critical role in the response to the pandemic.

Thank you in advance for continuing to help ensure that ground ambulance service organizations and fire departments and our paramedics, EMTs and firefighters have the resources necessary to

continue caring for our patients in their moment of greatest need, while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and maintaining the short and long-term viability of EMS in America.

Sincerely,

American Ambulance Association
Congressional Fire Services Institute
International Association of Fire Chiefs
International Association of Fire Fighters
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
National Volunteer Fire Council