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October 14, 2021

Board of Directors,
Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs
for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP)

Dear Board Members,

On behalf of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT), thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the most recent draft of the *CAAHEP Standards and Guidelines for the Accreditation of Educational Programs in the Emergency Medical Services Professions*. We have reviewed this latest draft and offer the following comments:

- Lines 51 & 52: American Ambulance Association is listed twice.
- Line 82: non-emergency and preventive health care should also be listed in the care that a Paramedic provides.
- Lines 85-86 & 95-96 & 104-105: The current language appears to imply that EMS practitioners are not a part of the health care system. We recommend the following revision: *The Paramedic (AEMT, EMT in subsequent sentences) is part of the health care system that links out-of-hospital care to the care that is provided within hospitals, clinics and physicians' offices.*
- Lines 118-148: The current Program Sponsor requirements are prohibitive in many areas of the country. We recommend that EMS agencies be allowed to file for accreditation without the requirement of an articulation agreement with a post-secondary/academic institution.
- Lines 171-172: While we note that a “minimum expectations statement” is required from the program as well as program goals, we did not find any requirements for the program to document achievement of minimum expectations or goals. How is this being measured? EMS agencies are finding that many students who are graduating from paramedic programs are not entry-level competent.
- Line 330: Under III.B.2.b., it was noted that the requirement for the Program Medical Director to be licensed in the same state as the Program has been removed from the draft guidelines. We recommend that it be reinstated.
- Line 438 & 462-463: Given the amount of administrative documentation Paramedic Programs are required to complete, we do not recommend that the guidelines suggest that one person can take on the roles of program director, lead instructor and course coordinator. Having one person take on multiple roles could negatively impact the students' learning experience.
- Lines 829-899: Should include a section on Health and Wellbeing covering mental health and resilience, stress management, conflict resolution/de-escalation techniques and nutritional education.

In addition, we recommend that CoAEMSP offers at least two initial accreditation scholarships annually to encourage the establishment of additional paramedic programs.

Please feel free to contact us if you need additional information and/or would like to further discuss our comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bruce" and last name "Evans" clearly distinguishable.

Bruce Evans, CFO, SPO, NRP, MPA
President, NAEMT