



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Kathleen Taormina
1-800-346-2368
kathleen.taormina@naemt.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Senator Peter Welch, Representative Mike Carey Receive NAEMT's 2024 EMS Legislator of the Year Award

Clinton, Miss. – Today, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians ([NAEMT](https://www.naemt.org)) honored Senator Peter Welch (D-VT) and Representative Mike Carey (R-OH) as the recipients of the 2024 NAEMT EMS Legislator of the Year Award during [EMS On The Hill Day](#), the largest national advocacy event for emergency medical services (EMS) professionals.

This prestigious award recognizes members of Congress who demonstrate an outstanding commitment to, and support of high-quality prehospital and out-of-hospital emergency medical care, as well as our nation's EMS professionals who dutifully serve their patients and communities.

“We are fortunate to have two Congressional champions advocating for the EMS profession and our future. EMS agencies, paramedics and EMTs provide medical treatment and preventive care services in their communities every day and often without being reimbursed. They provide care in the home, in remote rural areas, and in precarious environments where their own safety may be at risk to ensure every patient receives the care they need,” said NAEMT President Susan Bailey, MSEM, NRP. “Sen. Welch and Rep. Carey recognize the imbalance between the funding and service provided and are supporting legislation to bring those points into alignment. They have our sincere gratitude.”

Sen. Peter Welch has a commendable political history in Vermont and at the federal level. He has supported EMS practitioners, most recently by introducing S. 3236, the Emergency Medical Services Reimbursement for On-scene Care and Support Act (EMS ROCS), which would direct the Medicare program to reimburse EMS providers when they render care on-scene. NAEMT is grateful for Sen. Welch's support and for working to address reimbursement for all patient care services provided by EMS practitioners.

“EMS providers offer life-saving services to communities in every pocket of the country. But right now, the profession is struggling from lack of resources and staffing shortages, jeopardizing the availability of care. It's an honor to accept this award and to hear from EMS providers and advocates here today to understand their needs and how we can best support them through this crucial time. Congress must continue to help EMS providers, and pass my *EMS ROCS Act*, so our communities can get the emergency care they need—when they need it most,” said Senator Welch.

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Rep. Carey has represented Ohio's 15th Congressional District since 2021. Rep. Carey works tirelessly in support of the EMS profession by educating fellow members of the House Ways and Means Committee and other colleagues in Congress on the importance of treatment in place (TIP) legislation, allowing EMS agencies to navigate patients to the right care setting within federal reimbursement policy. NAEMT applauds Rep. Carey's work and introduction of the Improving Access to Emergency Medical Services Act.

"It is truly an honor to be named the EMS Legislator of the Year and I am proud to stand with EMS professionals who provide heroic, life-saving services across the country. Without these brave men and women, the American people simply would not receive the care that we have all come to expect in emergency circumstances. That is why I will continue fighting to ensure EMS providers are not only properly reimbursed for the care they provide, but that we can expand these services to more seniors in Medicare and provide greater access to workforce development and retention grants for EMS professionals. Legislation like the *Improving Access to Emergency Medical Services Act* and the *Supporting Our First Responders Act* will help us accomplish these goals. Thank you to every EMS professional for all you do," Rep. Carey remarked.

About NAEMT

Formed in 1975 and more than 92,000 members strong, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians is the only national association representing the professional interests of all emergency and mobile healthcare practitioners, including emergency medical technicians, advanced emergency medical technicians, emergency medical responders, paramedics, advanced practice paramedics, critical care paramedics, flight paramedics, community paramedics, and mobile integrated healthcare practitioners. NAEMT members work in all sectors of EMS, including government agencies, fire departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations settings, and in the military.

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