

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 16, 2024

Standard Occupational Classification Policy Committee
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
2 Massachusetts Ave, NE, Suite 2135
Washington, DC 20212

RE: Proposal for 2028 SOC Revision Process, FR Doc. 2024-12825

Dear Members of the Standard Occupational Classification Policy Committee:

As the lead sponsors of the *EMS Counts Act* (H.R. 2574, S. 1115) in Congress, we welcome the opportunity to provide input as part of the 2028 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) revision process to ensure that all EMS personnel are accurately counted.

EMS personnel consist of a diverse group of first responders and health care practitioners who often serve in dual roles, including Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), and dual-role Firefighter-EMTs and Firefighter/Paramedics. These professionals respond to more than 40 million calls for service annually, and they are critical to ensuring public health and safety.¹

We appreciate the SOC Policy Committee including in the 2018 revision our recommendation to differentiate between Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics. This was an important step in ensuring an accurate picture of EMS workers. However, additional clarification is needed to achieve a comprehensive view of EMS.

The current SOC structure has led to an undercounting of EMS personnel due to the exclusion of dual-role firefighter/EMS personnel. This oversight in recognizing cross-training means a significant, chronic undercount of EMS personnel across the country, making it difficult to track gaps in emergency services and meet the needs of first responder.

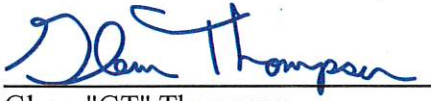
To appropriately count the total number of EMS practitioners, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) must account for the fact that a significant portion of EMS practitioners also serve as firefighters, performing both sets of duties as their primary role. For the vast majority of jurisdictions across the nation, the terms “firefighter” and “EMS practitioner” are synonymous.

Our bipartisan legislation, the *EMS Counts Act*, addresses this issue to ensure proper classification of these first responders. The bill has received broad support from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle, which we hope will be taken under consideration as the Committee begins the 2028 SOC revision process.

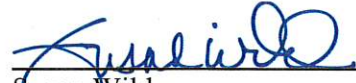
We stand ready to work with the Committee to ensure EMS personnel are properly counted. We appreciate your full and fair consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

¹ https://www.ems.gov/assets/COVID-19_EMS_911_Briefing.pdf



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



Susan Wild
Member of Congress



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator