

May 1, 2025

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education & Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education & Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education & Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education & Related Agencies
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Capito, Ranking Member Baldwin, Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As organizations that care deeply about the health and safety of our nation's children, we write to request that you provide \$24.334 million in funding for the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Labor, HHS, Education (LHHS) appropriations bill.

The EMSC program has made landmark improvements to the emergency care delivered to children all across the nation. As the only federal program dedicated to improving emergency care for children, EMSC has brought vital attention and resources to an otherwise neglected population. EMSC has bipartisan, bicameral support and was recently reauthorized at this amount—the most recently appropriated level—via the *Emergency Medical Services for Children Program Reauthorization Act of 2024* (H.R. 6960, S. 3765). This level of funding allows states to address gaps in children's access to high quality emergency and trauma care.

Every state has received EMSC funds, which they have used to ensure that hospitals and ambulances are properly equipped to treat pediatric emergencies, to provide pediatric training to paramedics and first responders, and to improve the systems that allow for efficient, effective pediatric emergency medical care. Additionally, EMSC funding has helped to improve pediatric capacity and transport of pediatric patients and address emerging issues such as pediatric emergency care readiness through the National Pediatric Readiness Project and pediatric emergency medical services in rural and remote areas.

Initiated in 2016, the EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center (EIIC) is working to accelerate improvements in the quality of care and outcomes for children in need of urgent or emergency care through an infrastructure that ensures routine, integrated coordination of quality improvement activities. The EIIC was invaluable during the surge in pediatric respiratory illnesses seen in late 2022 that strained healthcare facilities, staff, and resources across the U.S. EIIC created recommendations and resources to support the immediate response to the surge of pediatric patients and to guide planning and preparation for future surges.

We are aware of the tough choices appropriators face in the current fiscal environment and appreciate continued funding of the program. As you prepare the FY 2026 LHHS appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you fund the EMSC program at \$24.334 million—level funding from FY 2025.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to improve emergency medical services for children across our nation.

Sincerely,

Academic Pediatric Association
American Academy of Emergency Medicine
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Ambulance Association
American Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Board of Emergency Medicine
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Surgeons
American Paramedic Association
American Pediatric Society
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Children's Emergency Care Alliance of Tennessee
Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin
Children's Hospital Association
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Children's Minnesota
Children's Wisconsin
Emergency Medical Services for Children Nevada
Emergency Nurses Association
First Focus Campaign for Children
Florida Association of Critical Care Specialists
Florida Neonatal Pediatric Transport Network Association
Intermountain Primary Children's Hospital
Jackson Health System, University of Miami – Miller School of Medicine
Michigan Medicine, University of Michigan
Mile-High Regional Emergency Medical & Trauma Advisory Council
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
National Association of EMS Physicians
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National League for Nursing
National Pediatric Disaster Coalition
Nemours Children's Health

New York City Pediatric Disaster Coalition
Northeast Colorado Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Council
Pediatric Policy Council
Phoenix Children's
Plains to Peaks RETAC
Primary Children's Hospital, Intermountain Health
Puerto Rico Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
R Baby Foundation
Rural Health Association of Tennessee
San Luis Valley Regional Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council
Seattle Children's Hospital
Society for Pediatric Research
Southwest Regional Emergency & Trauma Advisory Council
Stanford Health Care
Stanford Medicine Children's Health
Sunrise Children's Hospital Transport team
Texas Children's Hospital
The Emergency Medical Service Association of Colorado
The Lundquist Institute
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The Paramedic Foundation
University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's
Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Association
Yale New Haven Children's Hospital