



September 2, 2026

Governor Gavin Newsom
Office of the Governor
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1328 – Call to Action

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) we are contacting you in support of AB 1328 and request your signature on this important legislation to improve the deeply inadequate Medi-Cal reimbursement for California's EMS infrastructure.

Founded in 1975 and over 110,000 members strong, NAEMT represents our nation's frontline EMS practitioners, including Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) and Paramedics, who provide critical, lifesaving services to communities nationwide, especially in rural, frontier, and other hard-to-reach areas. EMS is a distinct and essential service to the public and a fundamental component of our nation's healthcare and emergency response systems. For more than 50 years, NAEMT has represented individuals who work in all sectors of EMS, including government service agencies, fire departments, hospital-based ambulance services, private companies, industrial and special operations settings, and in the military. EMS professionals also work in hospitals, clinics, and other healthcare settings in urban, suburban, rural, and tribal communities.

California's Medi-Cal ambulance reimbursement has remained essentially stagnant since 1999, while the cost of delivering care has increased dramatically. The resulting pressure is affecting access to interfacility transport services, hospital throughput, emergency department capacity, ambulance availability, and ultimately the patients who rely upon this essential part of California's mobile healthcare system.

After years of advocacy, AB 1328 provides an important framework to address California's deeply inadequate Medi-Cal reimbursement for nonemergency and interfacility ambulance transportation. The bill would establish a pathway toward

reimbursement at 80% of the applicable Medicare ambulance fee schedule, upon appropriation by the Legislature, while also modernizing mileage requirements and aligning medical necessity standards with federal rules.

AB 1328 offers a fiscally responsible, phased approach to correcting this imbalance. It will help protect patient access without imposing an unsustainable one-time cost on the state budget. California cannot continue to ask its mobile healthcare providers to subsidize a state program with reimbursement rates that have not meaningfully changed in over two decades.

We ask that you prioritize this issue and champion the funding needed to make AB 1328's reforms a reality. The health and safety of millions of Medi-Cal beneficiaries, and the stability of California's emergency and interfacility transport system, depend on it.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and to provide any additional information that would be helpful as you consider this legislation.

Sincerely,



Christopher Way, President
NAEMT