



## Congressional EMS Caucus

The EMS Caucus helps Congress understand EMS issues and promotes policies that help EMS practitioners provide life-saving medical care in emergencies, cost-saving care management in non-emergent or emergent situations, and disaster response at any time. Highly trained EMTs and Paramedics are on the front lines 24-7-365. Despite low pay and no pay for community volunteers, they face the elements and potential hazards without reservation when a person is ill or injured.

EMS practitioners provide immediate, often lifesaving, medical care. They provide compassionate care at people's most vulnerable moments of need. These practitioners are specially trained to assess patient needs, and with physician oversight, ***navigate patients to the right care, in the right place, and at the right time***. All communities, whether rural, urban, or suburban, deserve access to the high-quality out-of-hospital medical care that EMS provides. Unfortunately, a growing number of communities have under resourced and diminished EMS systems.

When people call 911 they expect an ambulance to respond quickly. In medical emergencies, getting EMS there swiftly can mean the difference between life and death or disability. But nearly 4.5 million rural Americans live in what are known as ***ambulance deserts*** and can wait 25 minutes or longer for an emergency medical crew to arrive from a faraway community. Similar delays can be found in overtaxed urban EMS systems. In communities of all types there are shortages of EMS practitioners and equipment and with fewer ambulances available and fewer EMS professionals to staff them, communities are struggling to meet the need.

EMS is evolving to best meet the needs of communities and delivery models throughout the country and are counting on the evolution of federal policy and funding to help EMTs and Paramedics meet those needs. **The EMS Caucus strives to ensure Members and staff have the background, data, and other information needed to make effective policy decisions.** The EMS Caucus brings a disciplined focus on these issues to foster a bipartisan effort to support EMS practitioners nationwide.

For additional information or to join the EMS Caucus, please contact Alex Stepahin in Rep. Hudson's office ([Alex.Stepahin@mail.house.gov](mailto:Alex.Stepahin@mail.house.gov)) or William Seabrook in Rep. Dingell's office ([William.Seabrook@mail.house.gov](mailto:William.Seabrook@mail.house.gov))

Sincerely,

Rep. Richard Hudson  
Rep. Debbie Dingell

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