

March 28, 2012

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Shelby:

As organizations that care deeply about the health and safety of our nation's children, we would like to urge you to provide \$28,940,625 for the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program at the Health Resources and Services Administration in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Labor, HHS, Education appropriations bill.

For over 25 years, the EMSC program has made landmark improvements to the emergency care delivered to our 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. 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.

We are enormously grateful that in FY 2012 the EMSC program received \$21 million. This funding has allowed the program to maintain its existing activities, improve pediatric capacity and transport of pediatric patients, and address emerging issues such as pediatric emergency care readiness. EMSC is authorized at \$28,940,625 in FY 2013. We urge you to include the fully authorized level for EMSC in FY13.

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

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics
Academic Pediatric Association
American Association of School Administrators
American College of Emergency Physicians
American College of Surgeons
American Trauma Society
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Child Care Aware® of America (formerly NACCRRA)
Children's Health Fund

Children's Healthcare Is a Legal Duty
Emergency Nurses Association
Family Voices
The International Association of EMS Chiefs
March of Dimes
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association for State EMS Officials
Safe Kids USA
Save the Children
Society of Trauma Nurses