

November 18, 2013

Dear GOP Doctors Caucus Members:

On behalf of hundreds of thousands of physicians and other health care professionals, we are writing to emphasize that it is critically important that you cosponsor H.R. 809, *the Field EMS Quality, Innovation, Cost-Effectiveness Improvement Act*. Representative Bucshon sponsored the bill and your caucus colleagues Reps. Roe and Heck serve as cosponsors. The legislation addresses the systemic challenges plaguing field emergency medical services (EMS) to better fulfill public expectations so that all patients with emergency medical conditions can depend upon the highest quality of care and transport to the most appropriate setting.

The landmark 2006 Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report, "Emergency Medical Services: At the Crossroads", identified systemic problems plaguing our nation's EMS system. EMS is multi-jurisdictional with federal responsibility tasked across numerous agencies resulting in EMS and trauma care that is fragmented, limited, and all too often overlooked in favor of other needs. Other systemic problems identified by IOM include: insufficient coordination among EMS providers, disparities in response times, uncertain quality of care, lack of readiness and inadequate federal funding for disaster preparedness, divided professional identification of EMS personnel, and significantly, a limited evidence base of emergency medical interventions.

H.R. 809 would implement a number of the IOM's recommendations, including the designation of HHS as the primary federal agency for EMS and trauma to better integrate them within the larger health system, and consolidate federal EMS and trauma programs within HHS into one Office of EMS and Trauma Care. H.R. 809 would also establish programs for field EMS agencies, states and educational entities designed to promote high quality care, innovation and improve cost-efficiencies, and enhance field EMS research initiatives. The bill would evaluate and test new field EMS delivery and payment models to improve outcomes and lower costs.

Importantly, H.R. 809 is budget neutral. It establishes an Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund to be funded by voluntary contributions made by taxpayers when filing their federal income tax forms for the purpose of funding the initiatives in the legislation.

We hope your personal and professional commitment to the field of medicine is demonstrated by your support of H.R. 809. If you would like to co-sponsor or would like more information, please contact Teresa Buckley at teresa.buckley@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS)
American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS)
American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)
American College of Surgeons (ACS)
American Osteopathic Association (AOA)
Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS)
National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP)