



Action Alert!
Support continuation of funding for NEMSIS!

Advocates Members:

The House version of the FY 07 Committee-passed Transportation Appropriations bill did not include funding for NEMSIS and therefore we need to redouble our efforts on the Senate side. I have attached a sample letter that you can use to write to your member of the Senate in support of the program. Please feel free to add state specific information. The Subcommittee mark up will occur during mid-July so please contact them as soon as possible!

The following is a list of Senators who are on the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary and Housing and Urban Development and who Advocates members should target. If you live in one of these states; please try to get as many letters from the EMS community in your state as possible to write their Senators:

Bond – Missouri (Chair)*
Shelby – Alabama*
Specter – Pennsylvania*
Bennett – Utah*
Hutchison – Texas
DeWine – Ohio
Brownback – Kansas
Stevens – Alaska
Domenici – New Mexico*
Burns – Montana

Murray – Washington (Ranking Member)*
Byrd – West Virginia
Mikulski -- Maryland
Reid -- Nevada
Kohl -- Wisconsin
Durbin -- Illinois
Dorgan – North Dakota*
Leahy -- Vermont
Harkin – Iowa*

States with * by them expect to begin submitting data in 06/07.

If you do not have a member on the Subcommittee, please contact your Senators request that they contact the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, the Judiciary and HUD and voice their support for funding for the National Emergency Medical Services Information System at NHTSA.

If you make a phone call please ask to talk to the Transportation Appropriations Legislative Assistant. If you fax in a letter of support, put it to the attention of the Transportation Appropriations Legislative Assistant.

You may find your Senator's office contact information, including phone and fax numbers, at www.senate.gov.

Please do not use the United States Postal Service to send in your letter. Either fax or email your letter to the attention of the Transportation Appropriations Staffer.

***IF YOU SEND IN A LETTER PLEASE FAX A SIGNED COPY TO ME AT (202)448-9525* I will follow up with staff once you send in the letter. Follow up on this is very important so please send me your letters!!**

Below is a copy of a sample letter that you may fill in the blanks and use. I have also attached a copy of the sample letter to this email. Thank you for your attention to this matter. *It is very important that funding for NEMSIS continue!*

June 26, 2006

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The Honorable

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

As _____ I am writing to respectfully request your support for an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) funding initiative within the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) EMS Division. Advocates for EMS, a not-for-profit organization founded by the National Association of EMS Physicians, the National Association of State EMS Officials, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians and the National Association of EMS Educators, formed to educate elected and appointed officials and the public on important issues affecting EMS providers.

Advocates is seeking a \$3,000,000 increase over the FY 2007 budget request to continue implementation of the National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Information System (NEMSIS) data collection initiative in the FY 2007 Department of Transportation Appropriations Bill. A federal priority for Advocates for EMS is to work with to establish a national database for EMS data. Such databases exist to support police and fire services; however, until now there has been no similar national repository for EMS data that can ultimately be used to improve patient outcomes. EMS systems vary in their ability to collect and use patient and EMS systems data. Currently, there is no method to easily link disparate EMS databases to allow analysis at a local, state, and national level.

NHTSA, in cooperation with the Health Resources and Services Administration, has initiated development of the National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Information System

(NEMSIS). With \$1,000,000 in FY 06 appropriation, initial implementation of the national EMS database, operation of a NEMSIS National Resources Center and limited funding support to state EMS information systems to assist with EMS data collection and analysis will occur. NHTSA, in corporation with HRSA and CDC, should continue to implement NEMSIS in FY 2007.

I appreciate your consideration of this request, and urge you to provide the necessary funds to ensure that our emergency medical services systems are prepared to respond to life threatening emergencies with the most advanced technology, equipment and training available.

Sincerely,

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