

April 13, 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,