

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 7, 2006

The Honorable Ralph Regula
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services,
Education & Related Agencies
2358 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Regula,

We would like to take this opportunity to urge you to provide \$25 million to the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program in the Health Resources and Services Administration in Fiscal Year 2007.

For more than two decades, the EMSC program has driven critical improvements in our nation's capacity to deliver quality emergency medical care to ill and injured children. EMSC has enabled the development of vital guidelines for care, transfer protocols among facilities, systemic improvements, and training and education. In some states, EMSC provides the sole funds dedicated specifically to pediatric emergency concerns at the systemic level. For example, in 2003, 35% of states reported that all of their pediatric emergency training courses were provided through federal EMSC funding.

In the wake of the Gulf Coast hurricanes and the continued threat of terrorism, the work of the EMSC program is more crucial than ever. The hurricanes exposed severe shortcomings in our pediatric evacuation, triage, and treatment capabilities and systems. Clearly, these gaps must be addressed if our communities expect to be able to handle routine emergency situations, not to mention large-scale disasters.

For that reason, we urge you to provide \$25 million for the EMSC program in Fiscal Year 2007. This funding level will allow EMSC to continue and enhance its efforts to improve pediatric emergency readiness in every state, supporting programs in state EMS offices and targeting critical national needs.

We cannot afford not to make this investment in the health and safety of our most vulnerable citizens. Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you to improve emergency medical services for children across our nation.

Sincerely,



Jim Matheson



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Neil Abernombie

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