

NAEMT

Re: Field EMS Modernization and Innovation Act (H.R. 2366)

President Kearns,

NASEMSO commends the work and resources that NAEMT has committed to the implementation of Field EMS legislation. Numerous modifications and core elements of the most recent draft seem to strengthen it including:

- Its core mission to support the continued development and modernization of field EMS in this country.
- Its emphasis on the value of EMS and the importance of integration of EMS within the entire healthcare industry.
- It seeks to strengthen EMS leadership at the federal level and to support the development of EMS through coordination, innovation, evidence and research.
- The legislation is aligned with several key documents such as the IOM report and Presidential Directive #21 as well as preparedness strategies at HHS and DHS.

However, the leadership of NASEMSO is not prepared to formally submit a letter of support for this legislation at this time. Some rationale for this decision includes:

- The bill is still very large, complex and multifaceted. We are concerned that it is still going to be very difficult to explain and defend each component of the legislation in a fashion that will elicit broad support for the entire bill.
- H.R. 2366 introduces several new concepts related to mobile integrated health and reimbursement reform. These are very important issues, but they may detract support for this legislation from its core intent to fundamentally establish a home for EMS which might engage on such issues after legislation has been adopted.
- The self-financing mechanism was a necessary strategy when the field EMS bill was promoted some years ago as the economy was in dire straits. However, it still seems difficult to find support for this concept. While we are fully aware of the difficulty of securing more traditional funding, it may be time to further evaluate another funding mechanism that's easier to describe and stimulate support for.

Further, this version of the Field EMS bill seems to be silent on the role of states in coordinating and implementing national strategies and improvements for EMS in this country.

It continues to be unfortunate that finding a home for EMS is still so divisive. We encourage NAEMT to continue to work on collaboration and negotiation that will help break down some of the significant opposition to this legislation on that basis.

As always, we still wish to be included on further work on this legislation and we will continue to make sure that our members are always informed on its status and any support they can provide to this legislation individually.

Sincerely,

Prez