

Summary of H.R. 2366
The Field EMS Modernization and Innovation Act
Sponsored by Representative Larry Bucshon (R-IN)

Achieving a 21st Century Emergency Medical Services System:

- ❖ ***Access to Field EMS Saves Lives.*** All Americans deserve access to high quality field EMS for essential life-saving or unscheduled medical care. Field EMS encompasses emergency medical response and mobile medical services -- an essential health care safety net for emergency, trauma, urgent and mobile medical care 24/7.
- ❖ ***America's Field EMS System is Antiquated.*** For 50 years, Field EMS has been paid only to transport patients to the hospital whether or not they can more efficiently be treated elsewhere. Other systemic problems plaguing field EMS identified by the IOM include insufficient coordination, disparate response times, uncertain quality of care, lack of readiness for disasters, divided professional identity of field EMS practitioners, and a limited evidence base for medical care in the field.
- ❖ ***IOM Vision of 21st Century Emergency Medical Services System.*** IOM envisions an emergency care system that is integrated, accountable, and prepared for routine and public health emergencies. It is characterized by a highly trained and capable workforce delivering high quality, value and evidence-based, innovative, and patient centered emergency care in the field and across the emergency care continuum. Field EMS is transforming from a patient transport model to a health care service delivery model that provides targeted and high quality medical services to meet the specific needs of their communities with value-based payment.
- ❖ ***Unique Role of Field EMS in Health Delivery Transformation.*** Field EMS is uniquely positioned to support the transformation of health care to improve value, outcomes, patient experience, the health of populations and reduce the per capita cost of health care. Field EMS is capable of highly reliable patient assessment and intervention at any hour of any day in response to urgent or unscheduled episodes of illness or injury. Field EMS can help contain health care costs by navigating patients down medically appropriate and cost-effective pathways.
- ❖ ***Field EMS Preparedness and Response is Essential to the Nation's Security.*** Field EMS is an essential component of disaster preparedness and response to any public health emergency or incident. Field EMS systems must be incorporated into the national preparedness and response strategy. Field EMS agencies must be capable of meeting routine patient emergency care needs to be capable of meeting the extraordinary medical needs during a catastrophic event.

How the Field EMS Bill Modernizes our Emergency Medical Services System:

I. Aligns Federal Leadership for Emergency Medical Systems:

- ***Clarifies HHS Leadership for Emergency Medical Care.*** Clarifies HHS as the lead for emergency medical care as recommended by IOM (HHS is already the lead for public health emergencies). A properly functioning emergency care system is a prerequisite for preparedness and response to major public health emergencies and incidents.
- ***Facilitates National Emergency Medical Services Strategy.*** Requires the Secretary of HHS, in conjunction with the Secretaries of DOT and DHS, to establish and implement a national emergency medical services strategy.
- ***Establishes Office of Emergency Medical Care within ASPR.*** Codifies the Bush Presidential Directive #21 paragraph #41 to establish within HHS an Office of Emergency Medical Care to address the full spectrum

of emergency care including the entire continuum from prehospital to disposition from emergency or trauma care.

II. Promotes Innovation and Quality Through Field EMS Reimbursement:

- *Establishes Field EMS Alternative Delivery Program.* Requires the Secretary to evaluate, demonstrate and ultimately establish a shared savings program enabling voluntary participation by field EMS agencies in alternate delivery models that improve outcomes and lower costs, including community paramedicine, mobile integrated health care and alternate destinations.
- *Establishes Ambulance Quality Incentive Program.* Enables field EMS agencies that voluntarily report on quality measures to receive incentive payments. Such payments would be provided pursuant to any federal savings from the Field EMS Alternative Delivery Program.

III. Modernizes Field EMS Capability:

- *Establishes the Field EMS Preparedness Program.* Similar to the Hospital Preparedness Program, this grant program would assist field EMS agencies with demonstrated need to improve preparedness and response for public health emergencies and incidents pursuant to the National Health Security Strategy.
- *Field EMS Quality Improvement.* Enhances medical oversight through physician led guidelines, identifies impediments to quality improvement in field EMS, clarifies the ability of field EMS agencies to participate in patient safety organizations, and analyzes data gaps that hinder high quality field EMS care.
- *Accountability for Field EMS System Performance.* Supports the development of field EMS quality and system performance measures, integrates field EMS into the National Health Information Infrastructure, and clarifies that HIPAA does not impede quality improvement.
- *Establishes the Field EMS Workforce Program.* Establishes a grant program to recognize field EMS as a health profession and ensure the availability, quality and capability of field EMS practitioners, managers, medical directors and educators.

IV. Improves the Evidence-Base of Care in the Field:

- *Enhances Field EMS Research.* Requires the Secretary to evaluate the extent to which research related to field EMS is being conducted across the Department and report to the Congress on opportunities to enhance necessary research within existing funding levels.
- *Establishes AHRQ Field EMS Center of Excellence.* Requires the AHRQ to establish a Field EMS Evidence-Based Center of Excellence to support research programs and improve the field EMS delivery system.

V. Utilizes a Self-Financing Mechanism:

- *Establishes an Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund.* Such fund will utilize voluntary contributions from taxpayers to fund the programs authorized in this Act.
- *Authorization of Appropriations.* Authorizes programs established under this Act out of the Emergency Medical Services Trust fund totaling \$271 million.