

## **NASEMSO Response to “Borders in the Sky”**

Portions of the air medical industry have recently made calls for action against S. 2812 stating that it would “essentially create borders in the sky, preventing air ambulances from crossing state lines to get patients to the nearest, most appropriate medical facility.” It is believed that states enacting rules upon the air ambulance industry would create a “patchwork of boundaries”.

The National Association of State Emergency Medical Service Officials (NASEMSO) represents the collective voice of each state’s office charged with oversight and regulation of emergency medical services (EMS), including the promulgation of rules and regulations. EMS can be simply defined as care and transportation of the sick and injured.

State EMS Offices have effectively regulated the **medical** aspects of the air ambulance industry to ensure that the public remains safe and the appropriate level of care is available during transportation when the patient’s condition requires care at another facility, even in another state. When adverse weather exists, the ground ambulance industry takes that same patient across that same state line to the same facility.

States currently have the ability to regulate **all** aspects of the ground ambulance industry and this has not prevented ground ambulances from crossing state lines to get the patient to the nearest, most appropriate medical facility.

State EMS Offices have appropriately maintained their focus on the patient’s needs and have a demonstrated pattern of effectively and appropriately regulating care and medical transportation that must cross state lines to get the patient to the nearest, most appropriate medical facility. Rules and regulations promulgated by the State’s EMS Office have not and will not create a border in the sky – they have not and will not prevent ambulances from getting patients to the nearest, most appropriate medical facility.

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