AAA Government Affairs E-Update 6-9-11

1. REMINDER: Details of Next Ambulance Open Door Forum

The next Ambulance Open Door Forum is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. (eastern). To participate in the Forum, dial 1-800-837-1935 and provide the operator with the conference ID number of 59678829 and your name, organization name and the state from which you are calling. Below are more details on the Forum.

**CMS Ambulance Open Door Forum**

Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2011  
Time: 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. (eastern)  
Conference Call Number: 1-800-837-1935  
Conference ID: 59678829  
Conference Leaders: Dr. Bill Rogers/John Warren/Matthew Brown

TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the hearing impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880 and for Internet Relay services click here [http://relayservices.att.com/](http://relayservices.att.com/). A relay communications assistant will help.

**ENCORE:** Call Number 1-800-642-1687; Conference ID Number of 59678829. "Encore" is a recording of this call that can be accessed by dialing 1-800-642-1687 and entering the Conference ID number of 59678829. You can access the recording of the call from Wednesday, June 22, after 5:00 p.m. (EST) through Monday, June 27.

2. Cosponsors of Medicare Ambulance Relief Legislation

The Medicare Ambulance Access Preservation Act of 2011 (MAAPA) was introduced in the Senate on March 1 by Senators Charles Schumer (D-NY), Pat Roberts (R-KS) and Kent Conrad (D-ND) and in the House on March 10 by Congressmen Charles Boustany (R-LA) and Richard Neal (D-MA). MAAPA (S. 424, H.R. 1005) would provide a 6% increase under the Medicare ambulance fee schedule for ambulance transports originating in urban or rural areas and extend the bonus base payment of 22.6% for ambulance transports originating in super rural areas. The increases would be for five years starting January 1, 2012.

Last year, the AAA was successful in efforts to extend the temporary 2% urban, 3% rural and super rural bonus increases until the end of 2011. The relief from MAAPA would take the place...
of the current temporary Medicare ambulance relief and would not be in addition to it. Medicare
ambulance relief is the top legislative priority of the AAA.

Current Cosponsors of MAAPA

Below is a list, current as of today, of members of Congress who have officially been added as
cosponsors to MAAPA (S. 424, H.R. 1005). Since our last report, Congressman Tim Murphy
(R-PA) has been added as a cosponsor of H.R. 1005. The names of the lead sponsors of the bills
are underlined.

IL: Rep. Aaron Schock  
KS: Sen. Pat Roberts  
LA: Rep. Charles Boustany  
ME: Sen. Susan Collins  
ND: Sen. Kent Conrad  
PA: Rep. Tim Murphy  

3. Cosponsors of Federal Death Benefit Nonprofit EMS Bills

The second highest legislative priority of the AAA is to ensure that paramedics and EMTs who
are employed by nongovernmental EMS agencies are covered by the Public Safety Officer
Benefit (PSOB) program. The PSOB program provides death benefits to the family members of
public safety officers who die in the line of duty.

To extend coverage to paramedics and EMTs employed by private non-profit EMS agencies,
Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) introduced the Dale Long Emergency Medical Service Providers
Protection Act (S. 385) and Congressman Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA) introduced the Danny
McIntosh Emergency Medical Service Providers Protection Act (H.R. 1668). H.R. 1668 has
been referred to the House Judiciary Committee and S. 385 was included in the Senate version of
the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Authorization Bill. The House also passed a version
of the FAA bill which did not include the Dale Long Act language so House and Senate
conferees are currently negotiating to merge the two bills. The AAA strongly supports
expanding the program to those paramedics and EMTs employed by all nongovernmental EMS
agencies.

Below is a list, current as of today, of members of Congress who have officially been added as
cosponsors to the Dale Long Act (S. 385) or the Danny McIntosh Act (H.R. 1668). Since our last
report, Congressman Joe Courtney (D-MA) has been added as a cosponsor of H.R. 1668. The
names of sponsors and champions of the bills are underlined.

Dale Long Act (S. 1353) Cosponsors  
ID: Sen. Mike Crapo  
MN: Sen. Al Franken  
NY: Sen. Chuck Schumer  
ND: Sen. Kent Conrad  

Danny McIntosh Act (H.R. 1668) Cosponsors  
CT: Rep. Joe Courtney  
PA: Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick