



American Ambulance Association
8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 300
McLean, Virginia 22102
Phone: (703) 610-9018
Fax: (703) 610-9005
Website: www.the-aaa.org

June 26, 2007

The Honorable Greg Walden
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Earl Pomeroy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen Walden and Pomeroy:

On behalf of the membership of the American Ambulance Association (AAA), thank you and the members of the Rural Health Care Coalition for your efforts to improve Medicare reimbursement for ambulance service providers. In particular, we greatly appreciate you including desperately needed ambulance relief in the final draft of The Health Care Access and Rural Equity (H-CARE) Act of 2007. We support your efforts to ensure that rural ambulance service providers around the country receive increased reimbursement so that providers can continue to furnish high quality health care to their communities.

Under the Medicare ambulance fee schedule, ambulance service providers are reimbursed on average 6% below the cost of providing services to Medicare patients. The disparity between the cost of providing services and Medicare reimbursement of those services is even greater for super rural providers who have low transport volumes. The H-CARE Act would help correct these problems by extending an important temporary rural relief provision from the Medicare Modernization Act, establishing additional reimbursement for rural providers while replacing the current definition of rural with one that is more applicable to ambulance services and requiring that ambulance specific condition codes be mandatory for Medicare carriers.

The AAA is the primary trade association representing ambulance service providers that participate in serving communities with emergency and non-emergency ambulance services. The AAA is composed of more than 600 ambulance operations and has members in every state. AAA members include private, public and fire and hospital-based providers covering urban and rural areas. The AAA was formed in response to the need for improvements in medical transportation and emergency medical services.

Again, thank you for your efforts to secure critically needed Medicare ambulance relief.

Sincerely,

Jim McPartlon
President