



AAA Government Affairs E-Update

June 16, 2011

1. **DATE CHANGE: CMS Postpones Ambulance Open Door Forum**
2. **Cosponsors of Medicare Ambulance Relief Legislation**
3. **Cosponsors of Federal Death Benefit Nonprofit EMS Bills**

1. DATE CHANGE: CMS Postpones Ambulance Open Door Forum

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has changed the date of the next Ambulance Open Door Forum to Thursday, July 7, at 2:00 p.m. (eastern). The Forum was originally scheduled for Wednesday, June 22. 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: Thursday, July 7, 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/>. 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 Thursday, July 7, after 5:00 p.m. (EST) through Tuesday, July 12.

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). 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
MA: Sen. John Kerry, Rep. Richard Neal, Rep. John Tierney
NY: Sen. Charles Schumer, Rep. Paul Tonko, Rep. Maurice Hinchey
ND: Sen. Kent Conrad
PA: Rep. Tim Murphy
VT: Sen. Patrick Leahy, Sen. Bernie Sanders, Rep. Peter Welch

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). 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
VT: Sen. Patrick Leahy, Sen. Bernie Sanders

Danny McIntosh Act (H.R. 1668) Cosponsors

CT: Rep. Joe Courtney

PA: Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick