



# AAA Government Affairs E-Update

*September 21, 2011*

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## **1. AAA President Testifies before Congress on Ambulance Relief**

Earlier today, AAA President Stephen Williamson testified before the U.S. House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee on the need for extending Medicare ambulance relief. President Williamson was on a panel with representatives of the American Medical Association, American Hospital Association and the American Physical Therapy Association. He focused his comments on the impact on ambulance service providers of losing current Medicare relief. He also addressed the need for long-term relief based on the findings of the GAO report which found that Medicare reimburses ambulance service providers on average 6% below their cost and 17% in super rural areas.

For a copy of the full written testimony of President Williamson, please [click here](#).

To watch a webcast of the proceedings of the hearing, please [click here](#). The hearing should be listed as "Hearing on Expiring Medicare Provider Extender Provisions" or a similar title.

## **2. "Medicare Ambulance Services" Publication Released**

*Forwarded from CMS*

The "Medicare Ambulance Services" booklet, which is designed to provide education on Medicare ambulance services, is now available in print format from the Medicare Learning Network. It includes information about the ambulance service benefit, ambulance transports, ground and air ambulance providers and suppliers, ground and air ambulance vehicles and personnel requirements, covered destinations, ambulance transport coverage requirements, and ambulance services payments. To place your order, visit <http://www.CMS.gov/MLNGenInfo>, scroll to "Related Links Inside CMS" and select "MLN Product Ordering Page."

## **3. 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, Rep. Michael Michaud  
MA: Sen. John Kerry, Rep. Richard Neal, Rep. John Tierney  
MN: Rep. Collin Peterson  
NJ: Sen. Frank Lautenberg  
NY: Sen. Charles Schumer, Rep. Paul Tonko, Rep. Maurice Hinchey  
ND: Sen. Kent Conrad  
PA: Rep. Tim Murphy  
TX: Rep. Charlie Gonzalez  
VT: Sen. Patrick Leahy, Sen. Bernie Sanders, Rep. Peter Welch  
WV: Rep. Nick Rahall

#### **4. 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  
MA: Sen. John Kerry  
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