2019 LEGISLATIVE POLICY AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Our mission is to represent, advocate and provide a voice for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and emergency medical responders in the community and volunteer nonprofit sector. The association fosters EMS legislative awareness, education, networking and the exchange of ideas to enrich and enhance EMS and the public awareness of the valuable work and unselfish contribution that community and volunteer nonprofit EMS provides to the people of New York.

The advocacy of legislation and public policy that supports these organizations and activities is a crucial element of our fulfillment of that goal.

Direct Insurance Reimbursement S3528 Breslin/A6211 Magnarelli
To ensure that ambulance providers receive direct payment for services upon submission of an invoice to the beneficiary's insurance company, without the ambulance company needing to be a “preferred provider.”

Changes to GML 209b S3685 Brooks/A1778 Jones
This bill would result in the elimination of the Medicare benefit that permits EMS agencies that provide ALS intercept services to residents in rural counties to bill Medicare for these services. We strongly OPPOSE any changes that would destroy the most cost effective mechanism for delivering ALS to rural areas and to harm the EMS system as a whole.

Enabling Community Paramedicine S1805 Rivera/A1208 Gottfried
This bill would allow for Emergency Medical Services to expand its services to the patients using various delivery models other than transportation to the hospital. This would include collaborative programs for Community Paramedicine services. (We strongly support this legislation)

Payment For Death Benefits Within Ninety Days S3057 Gaughran/A550 Cahill
Over the years, there have been a number of instances in which payment of death benefits were delayed. It has been documented that in certain cases beneficiaries have waited over 6 months to receive payment of benefit. This bill would ensure that no family endures the hardship of waiting for their benefits.
**Tax Credit for Certain Volunteer First Responders S1178 Carlucci**
This bill would introduce a tax credit for volunteer ambulance workers. If approved it would be an untapped avenue of recruitment and retention to the volunteer ambulance services.

**Building Alterations Create Dangerous Situations for Responders A1797 Zebrowski**
These building alterations can impede egress from the building and prevent a safe evacuation during emergencies. In many instances, these unsafe conditions have placed residents and firefighters at serious risk of injury or death. This bill seeks to enhance penalties that may be imposed for creating these unsafe conditions. In recent years, there has been a proliferation of buildings that have been altered in ways that create dangerous situations for both tenants and first responders. These building alterations can impede egress from the building and prevent a safe evacuation during emergencies. In many instances, these unsafe conditions have placed residents and firefighters at serious risk of injury or death. This bill seeks to enhance penalties that may be imposed for creating these unsafe conditions.

**Ambulance Subscription Program**
New York’s non-profit community-based ambulance services provide critical emergency response and medical transport services that rely on philanthropic charitable donations to provide the financial means to operate. When called, non-profit ambulance service providers transport ALL patients, without any regard to or knowledge of a patient's ability to pay. Philanthropy provides the fundamental means of a non-profit ambulance provider to fulfill its mission to the community and covers the transport costs for an individual that does not have any insurance or has reduced insurance reimbursements from public insurance programs (such as Medicare and Medicaid).