

To a Senator:

The Honorable (full name)
(Rm.#) (name of) Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

To a Representative:

The Honorable (full name)
(Rm.#) (name of) House Office Building United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

I am writing to express my concern over President Bush's announcement on February 7 of the Administration's intent to completely eliminate the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) program, administered by the DHHS Health Resources and Services Administration. The EMSC program assists Emergency Medical Services (EMS) programs, including those that serve (*fill in your Tribe's name*) here in (*fill in your state name*)-

I am a member of, and I serve on the Board of Directors of, the National Native American EMS Association. The Board approved a resolution on this matter last week and I have enclosed a copy of the resolution. I hope you will consider it.

I strongly believe that the EMSC Program should **NOT** be eliminated or cut, and that full funding should be provided- If EMSC Program funding ends, the impact on the State of (*fill in your state name*) would be detrimental. The State would be forced to find and provide funding from within its already limited resources to continue to address the special EMS training and equipment needed to provide appropriate EMS care for children.

I urge you to argue against the elimination of the EMSC Program. I am sure you will see the logic in this request and will vote to fully fund this program. I am confident that you'll **TAKE ACTION NOW** by urging President Bush to take his budget back to the drawing board. America and (*fill in your State name*) needs a revised budget that responsibly addresses the special EMS needs of children.

I hope you consider my request favorably and vote against the elimination of the EMSC Program. If you have any questions or need further information, please call me at (505) [NUMBER] or via email at [EMAIL ADDRESS].

For a Better **EMS**,
[signature]
[Name]
[Title]
[Service]

National Native American Emergency Medical Services Association Resolution 2005-1

Title: Request to the US Congress to Fully Fund Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC)

WHEREAS, prompt response and definitive care from trained EMS providers working in the field reduces morbidity and mortality among victims of injury.

WHEREAS, injury is the leading cause of death among Native American people age one to 44, and American Indians and Alaska Natives die at higher rates than other Americans from motor vehicle crashes (203% higher), unintentional injuries (150%), homicide (87%) and suicide (60%).

WHEREAS, injury is the leading cause of death among Native American children between the ages of one to 19, accounting for 75% of all deaths in this age group.

WHEREAS, the National Native American EMS Association (NNAEMSA) represents the nearly 1,000 EMS providers who work in 80 tribal EMS programs.

WHEREAS, there are 80 tribally operated EMS programs in 25 states, serving over half a million Native American people.

WHEREAS, over 500,000 American Indians living in rural or frontier areas depend on these programs for EMS.

WHEREAS, a 2001 study determined that in terms of staffing alone, tribal EMS programs are presently funded at less than 50% of their level of need.

WHEREAS, the Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program has directly benefited tribal EMS by providing training, equipment, and resources to address the special needs of pediatric and adolescent patients.

WHEREAS, an Inter-Agency Agreement between the EMSC office in the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of DHHS and the Indian Health Service (IHS) has been in existence for five years and it provides direct resources that advance EMSC program goals and objectives within IHS and tribes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National Native American EMS Association requests the Congress of the United States to continue full funding for the Emergency Medical Services for Children program within the Department of Health and Human Services.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing resolution was adopted at the semiannual meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Native American EMS Association, held in Ak-Chin, Arizona on March 2-3, 2005 with a quorum present.

Bill White

President

ATTEST:

Rachel O'Brien

Acting Executive Director