

EMS is Facing Critical Workforce Shortages

Support Initiatives for the Hiring, Retention and Training of Paramedics, EMTs and Veterans

Our country's emergency medical services (EMS) system is facing crippling staffing challenges that threaten the provision of crucial emergency healthcare services.

- The shortage can produce longer 9-1-1 response times for ambulances to reach patients in need of emergency ambulance services or an urgent interfacility transport.
- Our pipeline for EMTs entering the health care profession has been stretched thin as our highly trained paramedics are being hired by hospitals or other healthcare providers to offset the nursing shortage.
- Our nation's veterans who are trained as medics face challenges in transitioning to the civilian health care workforce as paramedics and EMTs. Obtaining required state certifications can be burdensome and time-consuming.
- While there is substantial Federal training for physicians and nurses, there is currently very limited Federal support for EMS training.
- The 2024 Ambulance Employee Workforce Turnover Study by the American Ambulance Association (AAA) and Newton 360 - involving nearly 20,000 employees working at 258 EMS organizations — found that overall turnover among paramedics and EMTs ranges from 20 to 30 percent annually.

Support the PARA-EMT Act

- The Preserve Access to Rapid Ambulance Medical Treatment Act (H.R. 2220) "PARA-EMT" Act by Congresswoman Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA) and Congressman Finstad (R-MN) would help address the paramedic and EMT shortage.
 - o Provides funding for the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) for grants open to all ambulance service providers to fund paramedic and EMT recruitment and training, including employee education and peer-support programming to reduce and prevent suicide, burnout, mental health conditions, and substance use disorders.
 - o Reduces barriers that prevent veteran medics from becoming certified as civilian paramedics/EMTs.
 - o Requires a comprehensive study by the Department of Labor on the extent of the EMS workforce shortage.

House Request

Please cosponsor the PARA-EMT Act (H.R. 2220) by having staff contact Amy Lindardt with Congresswoman Gluesenkamp Perez or Meagan Daly with Congressman Finstad.

Senate Request

Please consider sponsoring the Senate companion bill to the PARA-EMT Act.