



# PENNSYLVANIA EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES COUNCIL

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*Your Voice In EMS*

## PEHSC'S LEGISLATIVE 2023 AGENDA

**Essential Service:** Support enhanced language beyond what is in Act 37 of 2009.

EMS should be acknowledged, promoted, and supported as an essential service and medical safety net at all levels of government state, county and municipal.

**Local Solutions:** Support increased revenue sources and mutual aid policies to sustain to EMS agencies. Support efforts at the local level to cover the cost of readiness including consideration of raising the municipal EMS tax millage. Support the Authorities model for EMS. Support mutual aid models and financial cooperation between municipal areas to achieve 24/7/365 coverage.

**Reimbursement:** Support legislation that supports appropriate reimbursement levels for EMS services from Medicare, Medicaid and other insurance entities.

Specifically -

Any changes to Medical Assistance (MA) to be consistent with Medicare rates, mileage rules and guidelines (Title 55, Chapter 1245) as well as the addition of the annual federal Ambulance Inflation Factor to payments to be consistent with the Consumer Price Index.

Investigate the elimination of medical co-pays and deductibles for 911 ambulance service

Support the reimbursement of treatment without transportation by commercial insurers.

Support a statewide ambulance fee schedule structure of all insurers with reasonable rates and appropriate increases to make all EMS agencies "in network" providers.

**EMS Provider Shortage:** Support efforts to provide incentives to recruit and retain a sufficient EMS provider force; incentives may include certification exam and continuing education educational funding support, tax credits, and reduced tuition fees for EMS providers and families to attend in-state colleges and universities. Support changes in staffing requirements to support the existing workforce without jeopardizing clinical care. Support changes to the requirements of educational institutes to support increased enrollments and successful completion. Support efforts to trend and prioritize EMS professions in state workforce programs

**System Funding:** Support increased EMSOF revenue or via another feasible funding source to provide direct support for the administration of the system tied to an inflation index.

**Grants/Loans:** Support legislation to provide for grants both at the state and federal level for EMS agencies. Support grant funding to assist in the process of official agency level mergers, consolidations, and partnerships as well as daily operations and readiness expenses. Support legislation to provide for expanded low interest loans at the state level for EMS agencies. Support grant/loan distribution models for agencies considered in good standing with the PA Department of Health.

**Accountability:** Support efforts to maintain a just culture of care with a transparent approach to include an appropriate investigation, due process for provider discipline / agency violations, and a peer review process that engages field providers and promotes trust in the disciplinary process.

Support appropriate Tort protections for providers.

**Provider Health and Safety:** Support legislative efforts to protect EMS providers from infectious diseases and ensure the inclusion of providers in the prophylactic treatment for exposures to infected patients and/or hazardous environments. Support legislative efforts to maintain CISM services for the mental health needs of the field providers. Support legislative efforts to keep appropriate LODD benefits for all emergency providers.

**Communications:** Support efforts to fund a stable and enhanced 911 system to include Emergency Medical Dispatch and data sharing to improve patient care.

**EMS Act/ Regulation Revisions:** Support needed EMS Act (37 of 2009) revisions to reflect current practice and enhance system operations. Support the review of regulations to consider waivers and flexibilities to meet system needs. As identified by the PEHSC Board