

February 22, 2011

The Vice President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC, 20501

Dear Mr. Vice President:

On behalf of the 4,000 members of the International Association of EMTs and Paramedics (a division of the National Association of Government Employees/SEIU), I am writing to ask for your support of the recommendations in the “Consolidated Federal Leadership” white paper.

The white paper advocates for the establishment of a lead federal EMS agency that would provide clear oversight, ensuring that safe, equitable and quality services are provided throughout the country. Federal oversight would allow for the introduction of national standards for emergency services, the proper flow of grant monies to agencies providing these services and an increase in training provided to EMS professionals countrywide.

As an organization that represents the interests of thousands of EMS professionals across the country, we are compelled to advocate on their behalf for changes at a federal level that will improve the life-saving services they provide and the EMS profession as a whole. We believe implementation of the white paper recommendations are necessary to ensure the safety of our members as well as the patients they serve 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

The EMS profession is often fragmented, sometimes viewed as a vital aspect of public safety and other times viewed as a secondary service. EMS professionals are often the first to respond to a disaster—natural or otherwise—but are frequently underpaid and underappreciated for the important services they provide.

The time has come to make a career in EMS more than just a stepping stone. The proud women and men we represent make numerous sacrifices in the name of serving others, and it is time we work together to recognize the importance of their profession.

Respectfully,

David J. Holway
National President