



INTERNATIONAL UNION OF POLICE ASSOCIATIONS AFL-CIO

THE ONLY UNION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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International Secretary-Treasurer



February 24, 2011

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
Vice President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Vice President Biden:

On behalf of the International Union of Police Associations, AFL-CIO, representing more than 100,000 rank and file law enforcement professionals and emergency medical personnel across this great nation, I am writing in support of the concept of a consolidated Federal Leadership role for the providers of Emergency Medical Services as provided by EMTs nationwide.

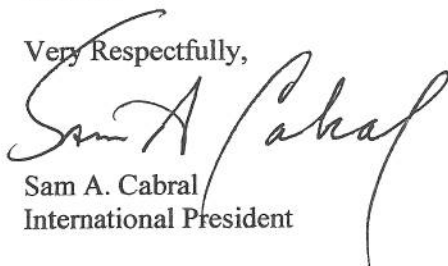
The Emergency Medical Technicians provide a critical medical link in all emergency services. Both the International Association of EMS Chiefs and the National EMS Labor Alliance concur with the notion as articulated in a "white paper," which outlines how this centralized leadership could be realized through the existing provisions of the Homeland Security Act of 2002.

Centralized leadership and guidance is needed to standardize the delivery of emergency medical care across a fragmented and frequently different set of protocols depending upon geography. Our nation's emergency preparedness would be optimized by a fully integrated strategy and equitable system. This would also allow for clear lines of authority in the event of an emergency spanning a large geographic area.

The Department of Homeland Security under the Secretary of Emergency Preparedness and Response has the authority to establish and oversee a federal EMS administration and have a positive impact on the delivery of these critical services.

We support the recommendations put forth in the "Consolidated Federal Leadership for EMS" study which you have been provided. We stand ready to assist you and your staff in any manner necessary to move this concept forward.

Very Respectfully,



Sam A. Cabral
International President

cc: Mr. Anthony Weinmann, President, Fraternal Association
of Professional Paramedics