



June 28, 2018

Rep. Darin LaHood
1424 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman LaHood,

The Illinois State Ambulance Association (ISAA) is the statewide trade organization representing not-for-profit, for-profit and government ambulance providers across the State of Illinois employing more than 4,000 people and transporting more than 500,000 people annually. Our members provide emergency and non-emergency ambulance services throughout Illinois and are the front-line medical first responders and, in rural Illinois, are the medical safety net for communities.

We appreciate your support and introduction of The Non-Emergency Ambulance Transportation Sustainability and Accountability (NEATSA) Act. This legislation is needed to modify the offset included in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018, which was used to cover the cost of the five-year extension of the Medicare ground ambulance add-on payments.

Modification of this offset is important to ensure that reimbursement reduction is appropriately distributed among ambulance service providers based on the portion of the entity's business which involves transporting ESRD patients to and from dialysis centers. Ambulance service providers focused primarily on non-emergency ESRD ambulance services represent less than 5% of suppliers and providers nationwide and have lower operating and staffing costs compared to ambulance service providers who are required to staff ambulances for emergency and unscheduled non-emergency ambulance transportation.

By modifying this offset to achieve a greater reduction in Medicare payment for ambulance service providers engaged in scheduled, repetitive transports, our members who perform predominately 911, emergency and unscheduled nonemergency ambulance transports will be able to continue to provide such services without another significant cut in Medicare reimbursement.

Again, thank you for your assistance with this important initiative. If you require additional information, please contact the undersigned at (708) 642-8276.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Vandenberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher J. Vandenberg
President
Illinois State Ambulance Association