

# NYS EMS COALITION

OUR MEMBERS WORKING TOGETHER



[www.nysfirechiefs.com](http://www.nysfirechiefs.com)



[www.nysvara.org](http://www.nysvara.org)



[www.unyan.net](http://www.unyan.net)



[www.fasny.org](http://www.fasny.org)

The New York State Emergency Medical Services Coalition endorses the following legislative initiatives, all of which are without cost (some providing substantial savings), and all of which benefit the entire spectrum of Emergency Medical Services providers in New York State.

1. Blue Light on Ambulances and EMS Vehicles - Amend Vehicle and Traffic Law to permit the display of a rear facing blue during emergency operations on ambulances, emergency ambulance service vehicles, and County EMS Coordinator vehicles. This legislation originally applied only to police vehicles and was amended last year to include fire vehicles. Rear facing blue lights have been demonstrated superior to red or white flashing lights and significantly reduce rear end collisions with emergency vehicles operating at roadway incidents. This safety protection should be extended from police and fire to include EMS providers.

2. Eliminate Seat Belt Exemption for Fire and EMS Vehicles - Amend Vehicle and Traffic Law to eliminate the exemption provided to operators and front compartment (cab) passengers of authorized fire and EMS vehicles from the requirement to use seat belts. Seat belts are a proven safety device; most ambulance and fire departments require personnel to use them whenever operating a department vehicle.

3. Direct Payment - [S-2714 (2011- Seward) same as A-4093 (Morelle)] would amend the insurance law to provide that payments made to ambulance services who are nonparticipating or non-preferred health insurance providers shall be made directly to the ambulance service or jointly to both the ambulance service and the insured. Insurers now pay many patients directly for claims filed by ambulance services who cannot practically establish billing relationships with every possible insurer.. Ambulance services are very often not paid by patients after they receive payment from their insurer.. This bill would help to assure that ambulances are reimbursed for the valuable services they provide to New Yorkers.

Any coalition member would be happy to discuss these concerns with you in detail and provide an update of our progress in bringing these important concerns to fruition.