



New York State Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association, Inc.

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March 12, 2022

New York State Delegation Health LAs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
(Sent via-email)

On behalf of thousands of New York volunteer emergency medical service (EMS) responders, I write to ask your Representative to join the U.S. House of Representatives EMS Caucus for the 117th Congress. The Caucus is co-chaired by Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC). Current NY members of the Caucus include Reps. Sean Patrick Maloney, Kathleen. Rice, and Elise Stefanik. We ask you to join them and support the volunteer and career EMS responders in your community.

The EMS Caucus educates and promotes the important functions of emergency medical services and works to improve EMS practitioners' ability to provide life-saving medical care in emergencies, cost-saving care management in non-emergent situations, and disaster and tactical response at any time.

Volunteer and career EMS practitioners provide immediate medical care -- many times, life-saving care -- to prehospital patients suffering from trauma, stroke and cardiac arrest. EMTs and Paramedics, in conjunction with physician oversight, are specially trained to assess patient needs and navigate patients to the right care, in the right place, and at the right time. The ill and injured in all communities -- whether urban, suburban, or rural -- deserve access to the high-quality out-of-hospital medical care EMS provides.

In addition, EMS is a critical element within our nation's disaster and mass casualty response infrastructure. NYSVARA members and our EMS colleagues have been critical to community's response to COVID-19, public health emergencies, and infectious disease. EMS providers also train for and respond to manmade and natural disasters, including hurricanes, winter storms, and floods.

The EMS Caucus brings a disciplined focus on these issues and will form a cohesive bipartisan effort to support EMS practitioners nationwide. The EMS Caucus helps promote, educate, and increase awareness around the federal policy issues impacting EMS, including the growing shortage of EMTs and Paramedics in New York State and the United States.

Please join us in supporting this essential public function in the health care continuum. For additional information or to join the EMS Caucus, please contact Tim Huebner in Rep. Dingell's office (Timothy.Huebner@mail.house.gov) or Molly Brimmer in Rep. Hudson's office (Molly.Brimmer@mail.house.gov).

If you have any questions, please contact Legislative Chairperson Steven Kroll at legislation@nysvara.org or (518) 376-7228.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Henry Ehrhardt".

Henry Ehrhardt
President
president@nysvara.org

NYSVARA represents, advocates and provides a voice for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and emergency medical responders in NY communities and the volunteer not-for-profit sector. The association fosters EMS legislative awareness, education, networking and the exchange of ideas to enrich and enhance EMS and the public awareness of the valuable work and unselfish contribution that community and volunteer EMS provides to the people of New York.