



National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
Post Office Box 1400 * Clinton, Mississippi 39060-1400
Phone: 800-34-NAEMT or 601-924-7744 * Fax: 601-924-7325
Website: www.NAEMT.org

April 2, 2020

Honorable Chad Wolf
Acting Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
301 7th St SW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Wolf:

On behalf of the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians ([NAEMT](http://www.NAEMT.org)), I seek your guidance on how Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agencies can access the additional \$45 billion in funds provided by Congress to FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund included in the CARES Act signed into law by President Trump. We have been informed by congressional leaders that these additional funds will be administered through states, and that it was Congress' intent that some of these funds would be provided to EMS agencies. However, we are very concerned that EMS agencies and their personnel who are risking their lives on a daily basis to care for COVID-19 patients will not receive any relief from these funds.

Historically, EMS agencies and personnel have not received direct funding from DHS in our role as first responders, along with law enforcement and the fire service, to disasters. FEMA disaster and preparedness funds administered through states do not trickle down to EMS.

Based on these experiences, we are deeply worried that EMS will not receive any of the Disaster Relief Funds included in the CARES Act. We seek your urgent action to ensure that EMS agencies and their personnel receive relief through these funds, as Congress intended, by:

- Designating \$5 billion from the fund to provide relief and support to EMS agencies and personnel;
- Providing clear guidance to States to allocate designated funds to EMS to cover pandemic response expenses;
- Fast tracking the application process in order for EMS agencies to receive relief through these funds as soon as possible.

EMTs and paramedics across the country are serving on the front lines of our nation's war against the pandemic. EMS agencies of all sizes and varieties – both public and private - are struggling to pay for the costs associated with overtime and backfill staffing, procuring personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supplies, providing continuing training on infection control, and retrofitting vehicles to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Funds are desperately

needed as EMS agencies are quickly becoming overwhelmed by the financial costs associated with COVID-19 response and preparedness. In many communities, EMS is at the breaking point.

Please help us continue to care for COVID-19 and all patients needing emergency medical care by ensuring that our EMS agencies and their EMTs and paramedics receive the relief and support they most desperately need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Zavadsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Matt Zavadsky, MS-HSA, NREMT
President, NAEMT