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Services

# ASSOCIATION OF AIR MEDICAL SERVICES



March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The Honorable Michael Pence  
White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

The Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS), representing the critical care transport industry – both air and ground – encompasses vast resources capable of caring for and transporting a variety of patients, including those seriously ill with infectious disease. We stand, as part of the entire Emergency Medical Services Community, at the frontline of the response to all medical emergencies and natural disasters.

Our AAMS members are working diligently across the country to ensure the emergency transportation needs of our patients can and will continue to be met. In some cases, this may dictate changing the mode of transport based on a number of factors including severity of the patient, distance to be traveled, capability of supporting staff and resource availability.

As an integral part of the health care delivery system, AAMS members are dedicated and committed to serving the people in their communities and will continue to do so during this crisis. In order to ensure the continued availability of these services and to maintain the health and wellbeing of the aviation and medical crews that are critical to the continuity of this service during this crisis, we join others in the emergency medical community in making the following policy and legislative requests:

## Regulatory Waivers and Exemptions

- Request the Department of Health and Human Services provide funding to the appropriate state entity to provide for childcare reimbursement for essential emergency healthcare providers and suppliers.
- Request that the Department of Transportation exempt air medical transport (Lifeguard) flights from any restriction on aviation, and to prioritize those flights in the event of limited Air Traffic Control services. This would apply to positioning, shuttle, employee transfer and other technical flights necessary to facilitate the rapid provision of air ambulance transportation services.

## Legislative Requests

- A payroll tax holiday for all ambulance service providers and suppliers.
  - Suggested Language:
    - *Employers who are providers or suppliers of emergency medical services, acting under a contract with, or permitted by, an ordinance of a unit of Government to provide ambulance services, shall be exempt from the payment of taxes defined under Section 3101 et. seq. of the Internal Revenue Code (payroll taxes) for a period beginning on March 16, 2020 through December 31, 2020 or the termination date of the [insert name of the base emergency legislation], whichever is longer.*

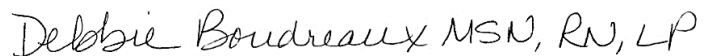
- Legislation dedicated to addressing the special needs and challenges of Emergency Medical Service Providers and Suppliers, including Paid Sick Leave, FMLA Leave and Childcare.
- Exemption of Essential Healthcare personnel and support staff from call for National Guard or military duty. Quarantines and exposures will impact the ability to provide essential services in addition to COVID-19 related requests.
- Ensure that air ambulance service providers shall receive the same priority access to protective equipment, devices and products, including, but not limited to, masks, gowns, gloves, shields, goggles and disinfectants, as other ground-based medical transportation service providers and other medical first responders. The absence of protective equipment may prohibit the safe transport of any patient given the possibility of responding to a person for another medical/traumatic reason who also has exposure or symptoms of COVID-19. In the event any air ambulance transportation service provider is required to obtain such protective equipment, devices and products from the marketplace at an unreasonably high price, that air medical transportation service provider shall be eligible for relief in the form of an equivalent dollar amount of tax credits in a manner to be determined by the Internal Revenue Service.

AAMS stands ready to answer further questions regarding the unique contributions of air medical services in responding to this crisis and managing the ongoing medical needs of the communities we serve.

Sincerely,



Cameron Curtis, CMM, CAE  
President & CEO  
Association of Air Medical Services



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