

**STATEMENT OF PAUL B. ANDERSON, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DIRECTORS**

This testimony is offered on behalf of this national EMS association which has a very serious concern relative to the continuation of comprehensive EMS systems programs in the United States in order to prevent death and disability thousands of times daily throughout the nation.

The National Association of State Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Directors has approved the following resolution on the subject of the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Program:

WHEREAS, the delivery of emergency medical services has been recognized as a part of the health care delivery system, and

WHEREAS, emergency medical service system(EMSS) funding was previously authorized and appropriated by Congress and administered by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, and

WHEREAS, the Congress currently provides EMSS funding through the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Program, and

WHEREAS, it is important not to dilute the funding initiative at the federal level,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the National Association of State EMS Directors:

- 1) supports the continuation of EMSS funding at the federal level;
- 2) recommends that this funding continue under the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Program at the Department of Health and Human Services
- 3) feels that on both the state and the federal level greater emphasis be placed on the health services portion of the above named block grant; and
- 4) recommends that the Department of Health and Human Services coordinate its activities relating to EMS with the National Association of State EMS Directors.

The National Association of State EMS Directors(NASEMSD) strongly believes that adequate funding for this block grant program is a necessity. The Congress is urged to continue this block grant program and to provide adequate funding for both the preventive and the health services aspects that must be addressed to serve the citizens of this nation.

The National Association of State EMS Directors(NASEMSD) also believes that the flexibility of the block grant programs must be maintained in order to permit states to use this funding in relation to the emergency medical services(EMS) priorities that exist in each state now and in the future.

The Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and related agencies is urged to act favorably to continue the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Program and to ensure that adequate funding is provided in order that emergency medical services systems throughout the nation are kept viable to be able to reduce death and disability.