

The Honorable John Dingell
Chairman, Committee on
Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Pursuant to Section 10202(a)(7) of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users (SAFETEA-LU, P.L. 109-59), the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is pleased to provide you with the second annual report on the activities, actions, and recommendations of the Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (FICEMS). As you know, Congress created FICEMS to ensure coordination among Federal agencies involved with emergency medical services (EMS) and 9-1-1 services; identify EMS and 9-1-1 needs; recommend new or expanded EMS and communication technologies; identify ways to streamline the process through which Federal agencies support EMS; assist State, local, tribal, or regional EMS in setting priorities; and advise, consult, and make recommendations on matters related to implementation of coordinated State EMS programs. The NHTSA, in cooperation with other participating Federal agencies, is to provide administrative support to the committee. I am proud to have been elected as the FICEMS chairperson. The FICEMS members are listed in Enclosure I.

Since the last Congressional Report, FICEMS held its initial meeting in December 2006, and met again in June 2007. The FICEMS has taken important steps to increase the coordination and collaboration among the Federal agencies involved with EMS. The FICEMS has accomplished the following:

Established organizational procedures

The FICEMS adopted a “Method of Operations” specifying the manner in which business will be conducted. A Technical Working Group (TWG), composed of FICEMS member agency staff, has been established to provide technical expertise and support, to act on the priorities established by the committee and to assist in the day-to-day coordination of Federal EMS activities. The TWG meets by conference call at least monthly and in-person on a quarterly basis. The TWG will accomplish much of its work through the following committees, each of which is chaired by a representative of a different FICEMS agency: Data and Research, Medical Oversight, Assessment, 9-1-1 and Medical Communications, and Preparedness.

The TWG submitted, and FICEMS adopted, a report and recommendations during the June meeting.

Established priorities

The FICEMS has adopted the following priorities and action steps:

- Support a comprehensive national EMS assessment
- Assure EMS is engaged in all-hazards preparedness planning to assess current and future preparedness needs, determine gaps and invest available funding to achieve a shared national vision, capabilities and priorities
- Support implementation of the National EMS Information System
- Support development of a prehospital evidence-based practice guidelines process
- Increase collaboration among the Federal agencies and State agencies to enhance EMS
- Examine recommendations of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) report: “The Future of Emergency Care in the United States Health System” and continue to identify opportunities for implementation of IOM recommendations including regional, accountable emergency care systems
- Review funding for EMS research to support the Federal EMS Research Agendas
- Develop a table of current Federal EMS responsibilities and authorities
- Improve medical oversight of EMS
- Continue improving day-to-day coordination of Federal EMS activities, priorities and funding.

Reviewed the IOM report

The TWG reviewed the IOM report: “The Future of Emergency Care in the United States Health System” and prepared an analysis that was presented to, and adopted by FICEMS. The analysis provides current and planned relevant Federal activities, and opportunities for enhanced collaboration, for each of the report’s recommendations.

The FICEMS looks forward to continued enhanced Federal EMS collaboration to accomplish its ambitious priorities.

An identical letter has been sent to the Ranking Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, United States Senate.

Sincerely yours,

Nicole R. Nason

Enclosure

Same letter to:

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye Dear Mr. Chairman
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Stevens Dear Senator Stevens
Vice Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Dingell Dear Mr. Chairman
Chairman, Committee on
Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joe Barton Dear Congressman Barton
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Enclosure I
Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services

Nicole R. Nason, Chair
Administrator, NHTSA

Jeffrey W. Runge, M.D.
Acting Assistant Secretary/Chief Medical Officer for Health Affairs
Department of Homeland Security

Charles Dickinson
Acting Administrator, U.S. Fire Administration

Peter C. Van Dyck, M.D., MPH
Associate Administrator, Maternal & Child Health
Health Resources & Services Administration

Henry Falk, M.D.
Director, Coordinating Center for Environmental
Health and Injury Prevention
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Thomas Hamilton
Director, Survey & Certification Group
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

David R. Boyd, MDCM, FACS
EMS Coordinator, Emergency Services
Indian Health Services

Kevin Yeskey, M.D., FACEP
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness
Department of Health and Human Services

Lieutenant Colonel William J. Kormos, Jr.
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense Health Affairs, Department of Defense

Robert Bass, M.D., Executive Director
Maryland Institute of Emergency Medical Services Systems

Dana Shaffer
Deputy Chief Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications
Commission