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September 8, 2025

The Honorable Jared Polis
Governor of Colorado
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Governor Polis,

On behalf of the Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado (EMSAC), I respectfully request the inclusion of our organization and emergency medical services (EMS) as a whole, in the State of Colorado's planning and application process for the Rural Health Transformation Fund, created under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

As a coalition of public and private ambulance providers serving more than 900,000 patients each year across both rural and urban communities, EMSAC represents a critical component of Colorado's healthcare safety net. Our members are often the first—and sometimes only—point of access for patients in crisis, particularly in rural areas where hospital and primary care resources are limited. We believe that any comprehensive strategy to transform rural healthcare must recognize EMS as a foundational partner.

The Rural Health Transformation Fund presents a historic opportunity to strengthen Colorado's healthcare delivery system. With \$50 billion allocated nationally over five years and applications due by December 31, 2025, it is vital that Colorado's submission reflect the full spectrum of rural health providers. EMS is uniquely positioned to advance the fund's goals of expanding access, leveraging technology, and fostering innovative partnerships. Our expertise in 911 response, interfacility transport, and community paramedicine directly aligns with the program's emphasis on innovation and measurable outcomes.

EMSAC has already begun collaborating with statewide partners to design EMS-led solutions that improve care, efficiency, and equity. We are prepared to contribute data, policy recommendations, and program concepts that will strengthen Colorado's application and ensure EMS is fully integrated into this effort.

Accordingly, we respectfully request:

- A seat at the table in any council, task force, or working group convened to develop Colorado's Rural Health Transformation Plan.
- Inclusion of EMS-specific initiatives in the state's application, including workforce development, reimbursement reform, and technology deployment.
- Recognition of EMS as an essential service provider, eligible for funding under the program.
- Please consider our comments in our SBAR: Rural Transformation Funding for EMS in Colorado also attached to this letter.

We appreciate your leadership and commitment to improving healthcare access for all Coloradans. EMSAC stands ready to partner with the State of Colorado to ensure that emergency medical services remain an essential part of the solution.

Sincerely,

Tom Anderson
President

Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado