



Position Statement

2000 Colorado Constitution Amendment 21

Adopted October 14, 2000 by the

Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado, Inc.

On November 7, 2000, the voters of Colorado will consider Proposed Constitutional Amendment 21, also known as "Taxcut 2000." The language of amendment 21 in effect creates a state mandate that will reduce the property tax revenue of ambulance districts, hospital districts, health services districts, fire protection districts and any other Colorado special district that provides emergency medical services. This mandate ignores the varying financial needs of local emergency medical service agencies and, further, removes from district's boards of directors and district's voters the ability to determine locally the amount of funds they wish to provide to local emergency medical services.

The members of the Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado -- both paid and volunteer professionals -- dedicate themselves to providing to their patients the highest quality care achievable within the limits of their local EMS system. We believe that Amendment 21 will cripple our ability to deliver emergency care for Colorado citizens -- our neighbors-- and visitors who are traumatically injured, or suffer from chronic or acute medical emergencies, at work and at play. If Amendment 21 passes, any person in Colorado that travels through districts that provide EMS services will assume a great risk of needing emergency care in a locale where such care is professionally sub-standard, if the service exists at all.

The Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado opposes Amendment 21 and encourages Colorado voters to read carefully and understand Amendment 21 and vote "**no**" on November 7, 2000.

