



# Monroe County Legislature

**WILLIE J. LIGHTFOOT**  
LEGISLATOR - DISTRICT 27

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January 7, 2008

To The Honorable  
Monroe County Legislature  
39 West Main Street  
Rochester, New York 14614

OFFICIAL FILE COPY	
No.	080013
Not to be removed from the Office of the Legislature Of Monroe County	
Committee Assignment	
Memorializing Referral	-1-

**Re: Memorializing the U.S. Congress to Pass and President George W. Bush to Sign into Law Bills S.1310/H.R.2164, the Medicare Ambulance Payment Extension Act**

Honorable Legislators:

Approximately two-thirds of all ambulance calls for service are paid for by government, either through Medicaid or Medicare. In May 2007, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report stating that on average the reimbursement received by ambulance service providers from Medicare is six percent (6%) lower than the average cost of those services. In greater rural areas, the gap increases to seventeen percent (17%) below the actual cost of services provided.

In 2003, the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act (MMA) established a regional fee schedule in order to add close to \$840 million to Medicare payments for ambulance service providers through December 2009. Currently, the cost of transporting a patient ranges from \$99 to \$1,218. Often times when the shared costs associated with ambulance providers are above these average costs, the additional burden is shifted to local governments.

Senator Chuck Schumer of New York has proposed bill S.1310, the Medicare Ambulance Payment Extension Act. This bill will amend the Social Security Act to provide an additional five percent (5%) increase in Medicare payments for ground ambulance services between 2008 and 2010. Without this legislation, ambulance service providers stand to lose about \$450 million in funding over the next few years.

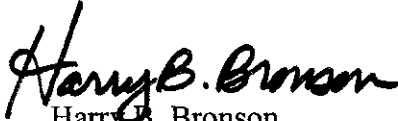
Services provided by first responders, including ambulance, often can be the difference between life and death to their patients. According to the GAO, between 2001 to 2004 the use of ambulance transports per beneficiary increased by sixteen percent (16%). It is critical that first-responders are adequately funded in order guarantee patient access to high-quality, life-saving ambulance care. Therefore, we ask for you to join us in memorializing the U.S. Congress to readily adopt, and President George W. Bush to sign into law bills

S.1310/H.R.2164, the Medicare Ambulance Payment Extension Act, to ensure that Medicare payments are adequate to the ground services provided by ambulance service providers.

Respectfully Submitted,



Willie Joe Lightfoot  
Legislator – District 27



Harry B. Bronson  
Democratic Minority Leader



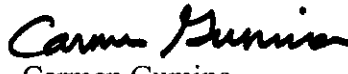
Carrie M. Andrews  
Assistant Minority Leader



Calvin Lee, Jr.  
Assistant Minority Leader



Richard A. Beebe  
Legislator – District 6



Carmen Gumina  
Legislator – District 8



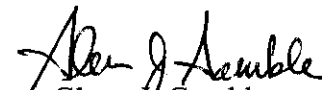
Travis R. Heider  
Legislator – District 14



Vincent Esposito  
Legislator – District 16



Ted O'Brien  
Legislator – District 17



Glenn J. Gamble  
Legislator – District 22



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Legislator – District 26



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