

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE TO ENSURE THE MISSISSIPPI AMBULANCE SYSTEM IS PRESERVED AND ADVANCED THROUGH AN UPPER PAYMENT LIMIT PROGRAM SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE SUBSTANTIAL DEMANDS ON OUR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Emergency Medical Service systems in Mississippi communities are strained and nearing a critical point in their ability to service our patient population, leaving rural Mississippians with limited or no access to paramedics' life-saving care and transportation to hospitals;

WHEREAS, the number of paramedics and emergency medical technicians are dwindling and ambulance providers are struggling to compete for those professionals who are currently being recruited by the hospitals in an unprecedented healthcare workforce crisis;

WHEREAS, the current reimbursement rates are insufficient to meet the rising financial demands on providers including competitive wages for paramedics and EMTs, fuel cost increases, supply chain challenges, and inflated costs of life-saving equipment;

WHEREAS, the Upper Payment Limit program for ambulance providers is not a cost to the state or local governments and is a mechanism whereby the providers and the federal government can provide funding to safeguard our ambulance system and preserve access to life-saving services for rural Mississippians;

WHEREAS, absent a meaningful Upper Payment Limit program sufficient to meet the substantial demands on the ambulance system, local governments will be forced to provide increased subsidies to providers to off-set these costs and to ensure shorter response times, properly trained professionals, and up-to-date equipment is available to rural Mississippians in need of life-saving emergency medical services;

WHEREAS, if the State does not give ambulance providers relief through the UPL program, local governments may be faced with demands on local tax dollars and will experience

response time delays, degrading emergency services, and even the potential collapse of emergency medical services systems in some counties as we have seen in neighboring states. This directly translates to delayed emergency treatment, longer and more costly hospital stays and lives lost;

WHEREAS, the [redacted] County Board of Supervisors ask that you support our citizens, our local governments, and our first responders in ensuring the Upper Payment Limit program is in place and funding available to support our ambulance providers;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY [redacted] COUNTY THAT:

Section One: All recitations made above are found to be true and correct and are hereby adopted, ratified, and incorporated herein.

Section Two: The [redacted] County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests the Mississippi Legislature, Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House to take advance of the Upper Payment Limit program for ambulance providers.

Section Three: The Clerk of the Board is directed to send certified copies of this resolution to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, Secretary of the Senate, and Clerk of the House. The Clerk of the Board is further directed to email copies of this resolution to each member of the County's Legislative Delegation.

Section Four: This resolution shall take effect and be enforced from and after passage.

\_\_\_\_\_ did offer and \_\_\_\_\_ did second a motion to adopt the above and foregoing Resolution. The vote on the matter being as follows:

Supervisor  
Supervisor  
Supervisor  
Supervisor  
Supervisor

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