



August 12, 2025

The Honorable Bill Lee
Governor of Tennessee
1st Floor, State Capitol
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Governor Lee,

On behalf of the Tennessee Ambulance Services Association (TASA), I am writing to respectfully request the inclusion of our organization and industry in the State of Tennessee's planning and application process for the Rural Health Transformation Fund established under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

As a coalition of public and private ambulance providers serving all 9-1-1 patients and hospital transfers across both rural and urban communities, this coalition represents a vital component of Tennessee's emergency medical infrastructure and safety net services. Our members are frequently the first responders for patients in crisis, particularly within underserved regions where hospital and primary care access can be limited. We strongly believe that any comprehensive strategy to transform rural healthcare must position emergency medical services (EMS) as a foundational partner.

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

TASA has proactively begun collaboration with stakeholders statewide to identify and develop collaborative solutions. We are ready to contribute data, policy recommendations, and programmatic ideas that will enhance Tennessee's application and ensure full integration of EMS in this transformation.

We respectfully request the following:

- A seat at the table in any council, task force, or working group convened to develop Tennessee's Rural Health Transformation Plan.
- Inclusion of EMS-specific initiatives in the state's application, such as workforce development, reimbursement reform, and technology deployment.
- Recognition of EMS, an essential service provider, as eligible for funding under the program.

We appreciate your continued leadership and commitment to improving healthcare access for all Tennesseans. TASA is prepared to support the state's efforts and ensure emergency medical services remain a key part of the solution.

Sincerely,

Tim Booher

Tim Booher
President
Tennessee Ambulance Services Association