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EMS Coalition: Cutting State Funding Jeopardizes Statewide Emergency Operations

Lansing, Michigan – Proposed budget cuts for the State EMS Office would threaten EMS operations statewide, a coalition of Michigan’s EMS organizations warned today.

The coalition sent a letter to state lawmakers and Gov. Whitmer Tuesday voicing strong concerns that that continued budget reductions to the Division of EMS and Systems of Care, within the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), would jeopardize critical public safety functions that support emergency care systems across Michigan.

“This is not simply a budget issue—it is a public safety issue,” said Angela Madden, executive director of the Michigan Association of Ambulance Services. “The EMS office provides the oversight, coordination and support that emergency responders and hospitals rely on every day. Further funding reductions would have consequences throughout Michigan’s emergency care system, potentially affecting response readiness, workforce stability and patient outcomes. We urge state leaders to restore full funding and protect these essential services.”

The Division of EMS and Systems of Care sustained a 37% budget reduction in Fiscal Year 2026. Under the House and Senate’s current budget plans, the EMS Division is projected to experience an additional \$4.5 to \$5 million gap. While MDHHS worked to temporarily maintain operations, coalition members warn that another year of reduced funding could significantly impact emergency response coordination, EMS oversight, workforce support and statewide systems of care.

The Division oversees several essential functions that directly affect patient care and emergency response throughout the state, including:

- EMS agency and vehicle inspections
- EMT and paramedic licensing
- Statewide EMS data collection and reporting
- Trauma system coordination
- Support for regional Medical Control Authorities

In order to maintain current programs that EMS agencies rely upon, the EMS office would need \$10.4 million allocated in the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. Anything less will result in reductions within the State Office that will hurt EMS statewide.

“A strong EMS system doesn't happen by accident—it requires state leadership, oversight and investment,” said Chris Stoecklein, president of the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs. “The proposed funding reductions would weaken the very systems that ensure ambulances, hospitals and emergency responders can work together effectively when lives are on the line. We are urging lawmakers and the Governor to restore funding before EMS providers are left with less support to serve their residents.”

If proposed cuts are enacted, Michigan's entire healthcare system will feel the reduced capacity of the EMS Office. This would include decreased support for agencies, longer inspection wait times, ceasing education opportunities and on-site trainings, suspension of in-kind work and user support, potential licensing delays and stoppage of paramedic exam development.

The letter was authored jointly by the Michigan Association of Ambulance Services, Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs, Michigan Health and Hospital Association, Michigan Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, Michigan College of Emergency Physicians, Michigan Association of Air Medical Providers, Society of Michigan EMS Instructor Coordinators and the Michigan Association of Emergency Medical Services Systems.

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