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## **Wellpath declares bankruptcy, EMS providers out millions unless State of Michigan steps up**

**Lansing, Michigan** – EMS providers’ chances of directly recouping costs for outstanding emergency responses in Michigan prisons are now nonexistent after Wellpath, the Michigan Department of Correction’s former healthcare provider, declared bankruptcy.

EMS agencies are left on the hook for nearly \$6 million in emergency claims, causing at least 15 providers across the state to deal with financial woes. In the Eastern Upper Peninsula, the delinquent payments owed by Wellpath to EMS agencies will soon leave the area without emergency response in some of its local communities.

“EMS providers operate on thin margins and cannot afford to not be compensated for millions in emergency care,” said Angela Madden, Michigan Association of Ambulance Services Executive Director. “Wellpath’s actions have put EMS agencies in an unwinnable position and it’s time for the State of Michigan right this wrong.”

With EMS agencies required under Michigan law to respond to all 9-1-1 requests, the State of Michigan should compensate EMS agencies for the outstanding MDOC bills. To date, action has not been taken to rectify this situation and the nearly \$6 million deficit is taking its toll on EMS agencies, impacting lifesaving operations quickly without reimbursement.

With the legislative session winding down and Wellpath declaring bankruptcy, EMS providers are pleading with state officials to right this wrong and reimburse them through a budget supplemental before Lamé Duck session concludes.

“EMS providers show up and provide emergency care no matter what, but that can’t happen if we aren’t compensated for our work,” said Jeff White, chief of Richmond Lenox EMS, serving portions of Macomb and St. Clair Counties. “We need the State of Michigan to rectify this situation before the health and safety of our communities is at further risk.”

*The Michigan Association of Ambulance Services is a statewide trade association representing and advocating for ambulance services. In 2023, MAAS members were responsible for 870,000 ambulance transports, serving 80% of Michigan counties. MAAS members also provide community paramedicine, ER diversion and 9-1-1 services in several areas of Michigan. For more information, visit [miambulance.org](http://miambulance.org).*