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May 13, 2021

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## **EMS remains on life support as Michigan fails to prioritize ambulance services in state budget**

### *EMS services in jeopardy without state investment*

**Lansing, Michigan** – While Michigan EMS services have been pushed to the brink by the pandemic, Michigan’s elected officials have yet to prioritize funding for ambulance services in the state budget.

After initial budgets passed the Michigan Legislature this week without additional funding for EMS, the Michigan Association of Ambulance Services (MAAS) and the Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs (MAFC) urged state leaders to properly fund EMS agencies, who haven’t seen a true funding increase in more than 20 years.

“Despite inadequate funding, Michigan EMS agencies have been making operations work for decades, but now we have been pushed to the edge,” said Jack Fisher, MAAS president and executive director of Medic 1 Ambulance in Berrien County. “The severe underfunding in our industry combined with significant pandemic-related costs have backed us into a corner and now we need help to survive. We are asking for state leaders to prioritize EMS so we can prioritize the health of Michigan residents.”

To reverse the severe underfunding EMS has faced in Michigan for decades, MAAS and MAFC are urging state leaders to include a \$10 million increase in state funding for EMS services to bolster Medicaid reimbursement rates. Currently EMS services are only reimbursed for 10 to 25 percent of their costs.

“It is a privilege and honor to respond to calls for emergency services, however, the financial burden has created greater challenges on EMS services,” said MAFC President Jeff Roberts, Chief of the Wixom Fire Department. “EMS services are essential to our communities and we take great pride in the services we provide. Now it’s time to properly fund our services so we can continue to focus on saving lives.”

Michigan EMS agencies haven't received a rate increase paid by the state since 2000 and payments have been reduced twice since then.

#### About MAAS

The Michigan Association of Ambulance Services is a statewide trade association representing and advocating for ambulance services. MAAS members serve 70 percent of Michigan counties and were responsible for more than 700,000 or 61 percent of ambulance transports in 2020. MAAS members also provide community paramedicine, ER diversion and 9-1-1 services in several areas of Michigan. For more information, visit [www.miambulance.org](http://www.miambulance.org).

#### About MAFC

The Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs established in the early 50's to assist its members in their efforts to promote effective fire prevention and suppression, emergency medical services and other emergency services through education, technical and legislative means. For more information visit [www.michiefs.org/MAFC](http://www.michiefs.org/MAFC)

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