SALF
Save A Life Foundation

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Director Dia Gainor & Chief Drew Dawson
National EMS Advisory Council - NEMSAC
US DOT 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC

Dear Director Gainor & Chief Drew Dawson

Allow me to commend you for creating this long awaited committee.

The University of Pittsburgh's Freedom House, in the mid 60's, directed by Peter Safar, M.D., gave Pre-hospital care meaning by increasing a victims chance for survival. 1972-79 the television show "Emergency" brought public awareness to the role of EMS but also brought a false sense of security. The public's enthusiasm to EMS grew and now relied on a simple call to a local provider to treat the victim rather then investing time to know what must be done until they arrive and weaken a patient's chances of survival.

Realizing EMS alone was not the answer in reducing death and disabling injuries on rural highways, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) October 1992 released its "National Standard Curriculum for Bystander Care" in an effort to give victims a better chance for survival. Although an excellent document no one agency and only one organization supported the role of the Bystander (Pre-EMS). Since 9-11 we've all witnessed NHTSA's forethought needed to expand from rural highways to include all citizens.

The public must be re-educated to the role of EMS verses their Pre-EMS role through various grassroots marketing campaigns by mirroring the success of Fire in reducing fires. They must be made aware that EMS is a unique group of highly medically trained individuals who need the public's support at all levels of government and at a scene of an incident in address their life saving needs. Encouraging our youth to consider EMS as a career choose needs to start at an early age, as is training them how to maintain life until EMS arrives. "*Lessons learned early in life establish behavioral patterns for the rest of our life and becomes apart of a person's core beliefs and values*."

Sincerely,

Carol

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