

NEMT TALKING POINTS POST HEROES PASSAGE

- While the House’s HEROES act contained some controversial issues, at least one particular provision represents a carefully negotiated bipartisan solution to codify the requirement that states provide non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) to ensure Medicaid’s most vulnerable enrollees can continue to access medical care.
- Section 30111 of the HEROES Act is based on longstanding bipartisan, bicameral legislation introduced by Reps. Carter (R-GA), Cardenas (D-CA), Graves (R-GA) and Bishop (D-GA) and Senators Brown (D-OH) and Isakson (R-GA).
- This legislation was recently approved by voice vote by the Energy & Commerce Health Subcommittee and was referred to as a “godsend” by the panels Chair.
- The bill and provision in the HEROES Act simply adds Medicaid non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) as a required statutory benefit, while still allowing states to modify their programs through the 1115 waiver process.
- While this benefit has been required by regulation since the Medicaid program’s inception, we now know a lot more about how addressing social determinants – like access to transportation – are critical to ensuring a functional, equitable, high-quality healthcare system.
- This is particularly important during the current COVID pandemic as NEMT providers play a critical role in helping people access testing and treatment, while also adapting to offer things like meal delivery.
- The HEROES Act built on the House and Senate legislation by adding some carefully negotiated bipartisan program integrity measures to ensure the program continues to serve the people that need it for the lowest possible cost to taxpayers.
- NEMT can actually save the health system money by keeping people out of costly ambulances and emergency rooms for preventable and/or routine care.
- Given the importance of this critical benefit and its strong bipartisan support, we strongly urge Congressional negotiators to include this provision in whatever next COVID bill is sent to the President’s desk.
- Over 80 patient groups, health providers, and other supporters have signed on to letters supporting inclusion in the next COVID bill. Forty-eight members of the Congressional Black Caucus have also called for passage of this important legislation.
- Please reach out to Finance Committee staff and Leadership expressing your support for this effort.