**EMS for Children Advocacy Toolkit**

The National Pediatric Disaster Coalition has prepared the following EMSC Advocacy Toolkit to advocate for continuing funding for the EMS for Children Program. Please feel free to share this with colleagues and adapt as needed. The Advocacy Kit contains the following items:

***Two Template Letters of Support:*** *Please personalize the letter and submit to your congressional representative or subcommittee list below. You can find their contact information at the links Senator Contact Info:* [*https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm*](https://www.senate.gov/senators/senators-contact.htm)

*House of Representatives:* [*https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative*](https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative)

***A close-up of a list of states

AI-generated content may be incorrect.***

***Talking Points for Colleagues***

***Shareable Social Media Posts with two graphics.***

**Template Letter #1**

**To Whom It May Concern:**

I am writing to express my strong support for the continued funding and full implementation of the **Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program**. The EMSC Program is not only essential for improving pediatric emergency care in both hospital and prehospital settings, but it also plays a vital role in building everyday readiness for communities to respond effectively to emergencies and disasters involving children.

Children are not simply small adults—they require developmentally appropriate equipment, protocols, medications, and highly trained personnel. The EMSC Program has led the nation in closing pediatric gaps in readiness by providing critical support through its State Partnership programs, pediatric emergency care coordinators (PECCs), and quality improvement initiatives like the **National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP)** and the **Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project (PPRP)**.

Everyday emergencies—such as motor vehicle collisions, asthma attacks, febrile seizures, or sports injuries—require a healthcare system that is prepared to care for children swiftly and safely. Thanks to the EMSC Program, we now have real-time pediatric quality improvement data that help ensure emergency departments have pediatric-specific equipment, protocols for medication dosing, and plans to involve families in their children’s care. In the prehospital environment, children are now more likely to be transported by EMS agencies trained and equipped to care for pediatric patients, with support from state-level pediatric champions embedded in EMSC-funded programs.

The EMSC Program also plays a crucial role in community preparedness and disaster readiness. It has strengthened systems to include children in **all-hazards emergency planning**, supported pediatric-specific disaster education and training, and driven research that helps us better understand how to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies that affect children. In large-scale events like hurricanes, wildfires, mass casualty incidents, and respiratory disease surges, the infrastructure EMSC supports has directly contributed to life-saving care and coordination for children.

In practical terms, EMSC has enabled:

* EMS agencies to receive pediatric-specific equipment grants and training for safely transporting children with medical complexity.
* Hospitals to designate Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators who lead pediatric simulations, ensure emergency supplies are stocked, and conduct readiness drills.
* School nurses, first responders, and hospital teams to access evidence-based toolkits and resources tailored to pediatric patients in crises.
* Pediatric surge planning and medical coordination centers that allocate pediatric beds and ventilators during respiratory illness peaks and other emergencies.

The loss of the EMSC Program would significantly undermine this progress. It would jeopardize pediatric readiness gains, dissolve state-level pediatric emergency infrastructure, disrupt pediatric research initiatives, and threaten access to life-saving training for both prehospital and hospital providers.

Children make up nearly a quarter of our population, and they deserve a healthcare and emergency response system that recognizes and addresses their unique needs—not just in disasters, but every day. The EMSC Program is foundational to ensuring this happens.

I urge you to continue robust support for the EMS for Children Program so that our nation can maintain and grow its capacity to care for children in all emergencies, build resilience at the community level, and ensure that every child receives the best possible care when it matters most.

Sincerely,  
**[Your Name]**[Your Title]  
[Your Organization or Affiliation]  
[Email / Contact Info if desired]

**Template Letter #2**

Dear Chair Capito, Ranking Member Baldwin, Chair Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am writing in strong support of the EMS for Children (EMSC) Program, which plays a critical and irreplaceable role in ensuring that children receive the emergency care they need—every day and in every setting. The potential elimination of this program would have devastating impacts on pediatric emergency readiness across our country, from the ambulance to the emergency department, and through to community preparedness and recovery.

Children are not simply small adults. They require different equipment, different treatment protocols, and a trained workforce that understands their unique physiological, developmental, and emotional needs. EMSC is the only federal program dedicated to improving emergency care for children, and its work supports the *foundation* of pediatric readiness in both the hospital and prehospital environments.

Thanks to EMSC, local EMS agencies and emergency departments across the country have taken measurable steps to improve their pediatric readiness. The **National Pediatric Readiness Project (NPRP)** and the **Prehospital Pediatric Readiness Project (PPRP)** initiatives provide data-driven guidance and support to emergency care systems—ensuring that even small, rural hospitals and volunteer EMS services have access to pediatric-specific tools, education, and resources. This means that whether a child experiences an asthma attack in a school gym, a traumatic injury on the highway, or becomes ill during a natural disaster, emergency responders are better equipped to save their life and support their family.

In my own community, EMSC has helped catalyze:

* Pediatric champions in EMS agencies and hospitals who lead ongoing quality improvement focused on children.
* Integration of pediatric disaster preparedness into community drills and planning, ensuring children’s needs are not overlooked.
* Specialized training programs for prehospital and hospital providers to care for children with complex medical needs, behavioral health conditions, and disabilities during emergencies.
* Improved data collection and use to understand and reduce disparities in pediatric emergency care.

The EMSC program’s national coordination through the EMSC Innovation and Improvement Center has been pivotal in elevating the standard of pediatric emergency care nationwide, while also helping states and regions translate national goals into local action. This includes real-world support for state EMS for Children programs, hospital recognition programs, and pediatric disaster response planning.

Perhaps most importantly, EMSC supports a vision of **everyday readiness**—the idea that by preparing for the unique needs of children in daily emergencies, we are also better prepared to care for them in major disasters. This everyday readiness is what builds trust in our emergency systems, ensures equitable care, and ultimately saves lives.

Children deserve to be seen, heard, and prioritized in our emergency care systems. EMSC ensures that happens. I urge continued support and investment in the EMS for Children program. The health and safety of our nation’s children—and our communities—depend on it.

Sincerely,  
**[Your Full Name]**  
[Your Role / Organization]

**✅ Key Talking Points**

1. **Children are not small adults.** Pediatric patients require specialized equipment, medication dosing, and provider training.
2. **EMSC is the only federal program** dedicated solely to improving emergency care for children.
3. **Everyday readiness = disaster readiness.** Preparing for everyday pediatric emergencies prepares our systems for larger disasters too.
4. **Pediatric readiness saves lives.** Hospitals with higher pediatric readiness scores have better outcomes for critically ill or injured children.
5. **State EMSC programs drive change locally.** They improve training, quality, disaster planning, and equity for pediatric emergency care.
6. **EMSC supports frontline champions.** Pediatric Emergency Care Coordinators (PECCs) and pediatric champions help ensure children’s needs are not overlooked.
7. **EMSC supports CYSHCN and children with disabilities** by ensuring care systems are ready for complex needs, behavioral health, and technology dependence.
8. **Disaster planning must include children.** EMSC supports drills, supplies, and plans that include children in emergency shelters, evacuations, and reunification.
9. **Progress is at risk.** Eliminating EMSC would reverse decades of advancement in pediatric care, research, and system improvement.
10. **Equity matters.** EMSC helps close the gap in emergency care for children, no matter where they live.

**📣 Social Media Posts**

**🟦 LinkedIn / Facebook (Long Format)**

🔊 *Our children deserve better than a system that’s not ready for them.*  
The EMS for Children (EMSC) Program ensures emergency care systems are prepared to care for children—from the ambulance to the ER to disaster shelters. If eliminated, we risk losing critical pediatric readiness, education, and disaster planning programs.  
#SupportEMSC #PediatricReady #EverydayReadiness

🚑 The EMS for Children Program is the *only federal effort* focused on improving emergency care for children.  
It supports State EMSC programs, pediatric recognition efforts, and emergency system readiness that saves kids’ lives.  
📣 Speak up before we lose this vital work.  
#ProtectPediatricCare #SupportEMSC

🧒🏾👶🏽 Children aren’t just small adults.  
They need the right tools, training, and support.  
EMSC ensures EMS and hospital teams are ready—anytime, anywhere.  
#EMSC #PediatricPreparedness #HealthEquity

**🐦 Twitter/X (Short Format)**

🚨 The #EMSforChildren program ensures hospitals & EMS agencies are ready to care for kids. It’s the backbone of pediatric emergency readiness—don’t let it be dismantled. #SupportEMSC

Children with asthma, seizures, or injuries rely on EMS & EDs being prepared. Without #EMSC, that readiness is at risk. #ProtectPediatricCare

📣 #EMSC = better training, better care, and better outcomes for kids. Eliminating it would set pediatric care back decades. #EverydayReadiness #PediatricReady

Hospitals with high pediatric readiness scores save more children’s lives. #EMSC made that possible. Why would we undo that progress? #SupportEMSC

👶🏽 Kids with complex needs rely on trained EMS & ED teams. #EMSC ensures they're ready. #HealthEquity #PediatricPreparedness

**📸 Instagram Caption Idea**

EMSC = Emergency care that’s *ready when it counts*.  
From ambulances to ERs to disaster shelters, #EMSC ensures providers are trained, equipped, and supported to care for our youngest and most vulnerable.  
It’s the only program of its kind—and it’s in danger.  
📣 Kids can’t wait. Help us protect this vital program.  
#SupportEMSC #PediatricReady #ProtectPediatricCare



