

**Please Support FY2020 Funding for
The Supporting and Improving Rural EMS Needs (SIREN) Law**

Request

Last year, the SIREN Act passed both Houses of Congress as part of the [Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018](#) and was signed into law on December 20, 2018. This law creates a grant program for public and non-profit EMS agencies in rural areas, many of which are at the forefront of the opioid epidemic— to support the recruitment, retention, education, and equipment for EMS personnel specifically in rural areas.

Please ask your lawmakers in the Senate and House to share their support with the Senate and House Appropriations Committee to fund the Siren Act at \$30 million for FY2020.

Background

Rural EMS agencies face unique challenges in delivering quality patient care to the communities in their area. While patients in rural areas have the same acute and chronic medical conditions requiring EMS response, treatment, and transport, the operational and geographic challenges for rural EMS agencies make patient care even more difficult. Rural EMS agencies may be the only healthcare providers in their area. Most rural agencies also face challenges in personnel recruitment and retention, providing continuing education and preparedness training, purchasing updated equipment, maintaining adequate coverage during prolonged transport times, obtaining qualified medical oversight, and are increasingly filling the gap left by the elimination or reduction of community healthcare resources.