

According to the American Ambulance Association, "Ambulance services provide more uncompensated care than any other major health care provider group in the United States"

When an Idaho ambulance service provides service or transport to a Medicaid patient the rate at which Medicaid reimburses for this service is 25% or less than the actual cost of responding to the call and providing the service.

In the recent report from OPE on EMS agencies in Idaho, only 22% of EMS Directors or Chiefs reported that their agency had sufficient funding to meet the needs of their community.shawn

This bill directs the State Medicaid Office to develop and submit a State Plan Amendment to CMS that allows public EMS providers in Idaho to participate in a supplemental payment program, often referred to as GEMT – Ground Emergency Medical Transportation.

This program will help fund public EMS agencies in Idaho.

The supplemental payment program provides reimbursement, through the use of a "Certified Public Expenditure" from the federal government, through State Medicaid, and at no additional cost to the State.

The program will reimburse the EMS agencies for half of the actual cost of providing care to a Medicaid patient, minus what Idaho Medicaid already pays.

This program will help Idaho EMS agencies large and small. Rural agencies, in particular will see a big benefit from participation in the program.

Chief Travis Mykelbust from the Lewiston Fire Department is here today. He currently participates in the Washington State GEMT program for calls that he runs across the river. He will be able to tell you about the benefits he is seeing from the program in Washington.

We also have Garrett Abrahamson from the Public Consulting Group in the virtual world. He can tell us about how many States are participating in the program and is available to answer any questions.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill to help EMS agencies in Idaho.