



May 4, 2024

Committee on Energy and Commerce

U.S. House of Representatives

Hearing on Legislative Proposals to Support Patients and Caregivers

Responses by AAA President Randy Strozyk to Questions for the Record

The Honorable Neal Dunn, M.D.

• **Question:**

Genetic counselors play an essential role when there are genetic aspects to disease and conditions. They ensure patients and family members who would benefit from genetic testing gain access to appropriate testing and ensure physicians and their patients understand test results well. Genetic counselors also help navigate follow-up care and identify clinical trials that may be of benefit. Today, Medicare does not reimburse genetic counselor services. Should this policy change?

• **Response:**

I appreciate receiving the question for the record from Representative Dunn's office subsequent to the hearing, *Legislative Proposals to Support Patients and Caregivers*. Following consultation with Dr. Dunn's office, it became evident that this inquiry was not specifically directed towards myself or my organization. Nevertheless, in adherence to the Committee's Rules, I am pleased to provide a formal response for the hearing record.

While acknowledging the vital roles of both genetic counselors and emergency medical services (EMS) professionals within the healthcare system, it is important to note that my expertise primarily lies in EMS operations and management. Consequently, I am better positioned to offer insights on matters pertaining to EMS rather than on genetic counseling and associated policies. Should there be any further inquiries regarding EMS, I am more than willing to provide my input.

The Honorable Anna Eshoo

Question 1:

What percent of ambulance services are provided by public entities nationwide?

• **Response 1:**

I appreciate receiving the question for the record from Representative Eshoo's office subsequent to the hearing, *Legislative Proposals to Support Patients and Caregivers*. According to the National EMS Information System (NEMSIS), in 2020, 30 percent of ground ambulance transports were

operated by private entities. The remaining 70 percent of ground ambulance transports were operated by local fire departments (37 percent), through other government agencies (25 percent), and by hospitals (8 percent).

- **Question 2:**

What percent of ambulance services are provided by private entities who have been contracted by public entities nationwide?

- **Response 2:**

An estimated 30% of ground ambulance services were provided by private entities in 2020 according to NEMSIS. A majority of the services are provided by ground ambulance service entities who are contracted with a local government to be the designated provider of emergency 9-1-1 medical care and transport services for that community.