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*"The American Ambulance Association promotes health care policies that ensure excellence in the ambulance service industry and provides research, education, and communications programs to enable members to effectively address the needs of the communities they serve."*

December 12, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner  
Office of the Speaker  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

On behalf of the American Ambulance Association (AAA), thank you for your leadership to include Medicare ambulance relief as part of the *Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2011*. As you have recognized, ambulance services are a critical component of our local and national health care and emergency response systems. They are also overwhelmingly small businesses that provide jobs and investment in local communities. The relief provided in the *Job Creation Act* will support these entities as they provide vital emergency health care and first responder services to entire communities.

We are particularly grateful for the inclusion of a one-year extension of Medicare ground ambulance relief. The extension of the 2 percent urban, 3 percent rural and super rural payment relief will help to ensure that patients continue to have access to life-saving ambulance services. AAA members also appreciate your commitment to updating the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on costs of providing ambulance services. The 2007 GAO Report demonstrated the critical need for ambulance relief with its finding that ambulance providers are reimbursed, on average, 6 percent below cost in urban and rural areas and 17 percent below cost in extremely remote areas for providing services to Medicare beneficiaries.

Again, thank you for your support for continued access to ambulance services for all Americans. Your strong leadership is recognized and appreciated by AAA members across the country.

Sincerely,

H. Stephen Williamson  
President

cc: The Honorable Eric Cantor, Majority Leader  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Whip  
The Honorable Dave Camp, Ways and Means Committee Chair  
The Honorable Fred Upton, Energy and Commerce Committee Chair  
The Honorable Wally Herger, Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Chair  
The Honorable Joe Pitts, Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee Chair