

By Senator Bean

4-01660A-18

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
urging Congress to pass the "Ensuring Access to Air
Ambulance Services Act of 2017," as articulated in
H.R. 3378 and S. 2121.

WHEREAS, H.R. 3378, the "Ensuring Access to Air Ambulance
Services Act of 2017," was introduced on July 25, 2017, and S.
2121, of the same name, was introduced on November 4, 2017, and
both are pending before the 115th United States Congress, and

WHEREAS, the "Ensuring Access to Air Ambulance Services Act
of 2017" seeks to amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act
to require reporting of certain data by providers and suppliers
of air ambulance services for purposes of reforming
reimbursements for such services under the Medicare program, and

WHEREAS, air medical services are a vital part of Florida's
emergency medical services system, providing access to more than
6 million Floridians who cannot access a Level I or Level II
trauma center within the first 60 minutes of an illness or
injury that requires treatment, and providing timely, definitive
care during transport, and

WHEREAS, the majority of air medical patients are cardiac,
stroke, and trauma patients who require timely critical care
access, and

WHEREAS, air medical providers were found to be reimbursed
at less than half of their operational costs for more than 70
percent of their patients, including Medicare patients, by a
national study conducted on behalf of the Association of Air
Medical Services in 2017, and

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30 WHEREAS, egregious underpayment by Medicare destabilizes
31 the reimbursement environment for air medical providers, and
32 reimbursement levels must be adjusted to preserve access to
33 critical air medical services across Florida, and

34 WHEREAS, it is essential that the Centers for Medicare and
35 Medicaid Services assess the operational costs of air medical
36 providers in order to ensure that reimbursement to these
37 providers accurately reflects these costs, NOW, THEREFORE,

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39 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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41 That the Congress of the United States is urged to pass the
42 "Ensuring Access to Air Ambulance Services Act of 2017," as
43 articulated in H.R. 3378 and S. 2121, to ensure the continued
44 availability of air ambulance services.

45 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State dispatch
46 copies of this memorial to the President of the United States,
47 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
48 United States House of Representatives, and each member of the
49 Florida delegation to the United States Congress.