



## Washington State GEMT Summary

Washington State's EMS delivery system is recognized as among the finest in the world. The statewide system provides outstanding service delivery to all of the State's population regardless of a patient's ability to pay. The emergency transportation system is a vital component and considered an integral part of the State's safety net of healthcare services. Washington is an active participant within the Federal Medicaid system and provides those services through the statewide "Apple Health" program. The reimbursement rate for emergency care and transport of Apple Health beneficiaries is far below the actual cost of providing those services. The base reimbursement rate provided for Apple Health transports is \$115.00 for BLS and \$168.00 ALS transport. These rates are far below the actual cost of providing the transport for both public and private providers. In 2007 the Federal GAO estimated the nationwide cost fell between the average of \$415 and \$1215 per transport. With the increase in supplies, benefits, fuel and operations these costs are much higher today.

As an active participant in the Federal Medicaid program, Washington enjoys the benefits of that relationship and the additional cost sharing that goes along with it. Within the current State Plan, Washington's public hospitals participate in a Certified Public Expenditure program "WAC 182-550-4650" that has been in effect since 1996. This program allows public hospitals and programs to seek additional Federal Medicaid dollars to offset the cost of providing services that are not fully covered under the current Apple Health rate schedule. Although this program will not cover the entire cost of providing ambulance services, it will reimburse up to 60% of the uncompensated cost.

This Bill will provide the enabling legislation needed to create a State Plan Amendment "SPA" which will allow Washington's public ambulance providers to;

- Participate in the authorized CPE program that is currently providing assistance for Washington's public hospitals.
- Create an ambulance provider cost report for approval by CMS for determining the reimbursement rate.
- Include a provision for development of an Intergovernmental Transfer program or IGT that will allow further reimbursement of Apple Health Managed Care/HMO providers.
- This bill will stipulate that all the associated costs with this program will be done with no impact to the State General Fund, the State or the Apple Health program.
- A mechanism will be included in the IGT portion of the bill that will create with the approval of CMS a State Administration Fee that will not exceed 20% of the amount submitted for the transfer of funds.
- Will not incur an additional cost to local government.
- Shall include the federally recognized 638 Indian tribes.

### **Your support will provide;**

- **\$100 million dollars in new money to public safety!!**
- **More than \$20 million in new revenue to the Washington General fund!!**
- **At no cost to the state or tax payer!!**