

LARRY O. SATHER, MEMBER

HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 202020
314 MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2020
PHONE: (717) 787-3335
FAX: (717) 705-1802

DISTRICT OFFICES:

302 8TH STREET
HUNTINGDON, PA 16652
PHONE: (814) 643-9633
TOLL FREE: (866) 235-1977

4527 E. MAIN STREET, SUITE F
P.O. BOX 952
BELLEVILLE, PA 17004
PHONE: (717) 935-2934

SNYDER TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
RD 3, OLD ROUTE 220
P.O. BOX 213
TYRONE, PA 16686
PHONE: (814) 684-7640



House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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TO: All House Members
FROM: Representative Larry O. Sather
SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation Regarding Insurance
Reimbursements for Ambulance Services.

In the near future, I intend to introduce legislation which would require insurers reimbursing ambulance services to make the reimbursement payments jointly payable to both the insured and the ambulance service to require endorsement by each.

My legislation seeks to provide relief to those ambulance service providers who, for many years now, provide valiant service time and time again, with no guarantee of payment.

In cases where an ambulance is called, and the ambulance service provider does not have a contractual relationship with the patient's health insurer, reimbursement payment for the service provided goes directly to the patient. The provider of service is then forced to bill the patient directly. Not only is the provider of service delayed in receiving payment through such a system, creating an enormous cash flow problem, at times the provider is forced to seek the assistance of collection bureaus in order to receive any payment at all.

Certainly, this type of situation is common among typical businesses, and is often considered in the cost of doing business. However, an ambulance service provider does not represent a typical business because it does not have a choice when responding to emergency calls - they are also legally obligated to do so under Act 78 of 1990.

Please join me in putting an end to this situation and provide the relief necessary so that ambulance service providers can continue to do what they do best – save lives.

If you are interested in co-sponsoring the above legislation, please contact Jennifer in my office at 7-3335 or by e-mail at jhaines@pahousegop.com.

LOS/jrh