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- **PERMANENT AND SYSTEMIC FUNDING FOR EMS TO ELIMINATE COVERAGE GAPS.** IEMSA believes that an effective public safety system is only as good as the funding to maintain it. In some places, people can wait over 30 minutes after calling 911 before an ambulance arrives on the scene to treat someone with a serious medical issue. The public's view of EMS is obvious; a significant portion of the nearly 1,000,000 calls to 911 in Iowa per year are for an urgent medical emergency; however, the Iowa Code is still stuck in the 1970s, when EMS was viewed as an optional service.

IEMSA urges the Legislature and Governor to set up a permanent and systemic funding stream for EMS that would allow money to flow to programs that can deliver the best results in the most efficient manner. Permanent funding would allow programs to staff up to respond to emergencies, to purchase the necessary infrastructure to maintain readiness and to expand coverage into the rural areas that need it most. We believe that this funding could be established through a dedicated stream of state sales tax revenue, reassessing the county property tax system or an increase in court fees and costs, with the proceeds directed to EMS.

- **GROUND EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORT:** Ground Emergency Medical Transport: GEMT is a federally-funded supplement to state Medicaid payments to EMS providers transporting Medicaid patients. GEMT recognizes that an EMS program cannot appear from thin air; all EMS programs need certain amounts of established infrastructure (known as "readiness funding") in order to transport patients. GEMT funding does NOT come from the state budget. DHS would have to submit an amendment to its state Medicaid plan and, if approved by CMS, programs transporting Medicaid patients could see a significant positive impact to their revenue. IEMSA urges the Legislature to pass language that requires DHS to submit an amendment to the Iowa Medicaid plan for GEMT to provide reimbursement to all eligible transport agencies who transport Medicaid patients.