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**Memorandum in Support
Health/MH Article VII, Part R / S. 3007B Part R**

The New York American College of Emergency Physicians (New York ACEP) strongly urges the inclusion of legislation to designate Emergency Medical Services (EMS) as an essential service in the FY26 New York State Budget.

EMS providers serve as an extension of the Emergency Department, delivering life-saving care in the field and improving patient outcomes. However, EMS systems across New York are in crisis. Rising operational costs, workforce shortages, and the growing complexity of emergency medical care have placed unsustainable strain on local EMS agencies.

Counties are being asked to do more with less to fill critical gaps in EMS coverage. Many lack the necessary resources, flexibility, and statutory authority to develop and maintain county-wide or publicly funded EMS programs. Without legislative action, these gaps will continue to widen, jeopardizing timely, equitable, and high-quality pre-hospital care across the state.

Designating EMS as an essential service will enable proper planning, funding, and resource allocation at the state and local levels. It will ensure that all New Yorkers, regardless of geographic location, have access to reliable, responsive emergency medical care when they need it most. The absence of an "essential service" designation leaves EMS uniquely vulnerable among emergency services, with no guaranteed funding or support structure.

New York ACEP strongly supports this designation and commends its inclusion in both the Executive and Senate budget proposals. It is imperative that this provision remains in the FY26 Final Budget to protect and strengthen New York's emergency medical care system.