

The Honorable [Your mayor's name here]
Mayor [Your town's name here]
address
city, state, zip code

Re: Impending Pre-Hospital Emergency

Dear Mr./Mrs.

As a resident of your community, I need to inform our municipal officials of impending federal changes that threaten to dismantle the EMS system in the state and eliminate its volunteer first aid squads.

The "Balanced Budget Act of 1997" charged federal agencies with reducing their expenditures. In keeping with that law, the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) has begun development of a new "Medicare/Ambulance Fee Schedule" which will substantially reduce reimbursement to advanced life support (ALS) services nationwide.

In order to understand how Medicare reductions will affect New Jersey, it is first necessary to understand how our present EMS system operates:

Currently, pre-hospital care in