

Legislative Representative:
William C. Koester, Vice President
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Current UNYAN Members:

UNYAN PRIORITIES FOR 2002

The United New York Ambulance Network (UNYAN) represents proprietary ambulance transportation services across New York State. Comprised of more than thirty commercial ambulance companies, UNYAN's members employ nearly 5,000 New Yorkers and provide emergency medical care and transportation service to over 14 million people in urban, suburban, and rural areas throughout New York.

- **MEDICAID REFORM - full reimbursement for Medicaid ambulance transportation services**

The "system" for reimbursement under Medicaid for ambulance transportation is broken. Rates are established on a county-by-county basis, and many counties have not adjusted rates since the 1970's. Only a few counties come close to covering the cost of providing ambulance transportation and care. UNYAN seeks a rational reimbursement program that covers costs and embraces full access, fairness, and quality of care in every region of New York State.

- **AMBULANCE VEHICLES INCLUDED AS MEDICAL EQUIPMENT**

S. 3407-A (Seward) / A. 7425-A (Morelle) would include ambulance vehicles as "medical equipment" under the Tax Law, eliminating the sales tax on new or used ambulance vehicles purchased by certified ambulance companies.

- **FUEL TAX RELIEF**

S. 3406-A (Seward) / A. 7401-A (Morelle) would eliminate the fuel taxes currently paid by commercial ambulance services on fuel used to transport patients.

- **EMERGENCY 911 DISPATCH AND RESPONSE:**

UNYAN strongly supports all efforts to facilitate the most efficient routing of wireless 911 calls. UNYAN supports the establishment of standards with respect to Public Service Answering Points (PSAPs) and the dispatch of emergency assistance. New Yorkers calling 911 on land-based and/or wireless phones expect and deserve a response by efficient, highly-trained personnel who trigger a prompt response and dispatch, including provision of pre-arrival medical instructions, if appropriate.

- **OPPOSITION TO DIRECT PATIENT AND THIRD-PARTY BILLING**

Municipal and volunteer fire companies organized under Section 209-b of the General Municipal Law are currently prohibited from billing patients. Permitting this type of billing amounts to "double-billing", adding costs to the EMS system with no commensurate benefits. It would disrupt New York's paramedic intercept system under Medicare of providing advanced care in rural areas. Language permitting billing under Section 209-b is contained in **S. 1456 and S. 2397 (Rath) and A. 6913 and 6724 (Canestrari)**.

Alamo EMS

AmCare Ambulance

Bangs Ambulance

Cooperstown Medical Transport

CHS Ambulance Services

Empire Ambulance

Erway Ambulance

Guilfoyle Ambulance

Hunter Ambulance

Kunkel Ambulance

Medical Transport Service

MetroCare

Midwood Ambulance

Mobile Life Support

Mohawk Ambulance

Monroe Ambulance

Northern Dutchess Paramedics

Oswego County Ambulance

Rockland Mobile Care

Rural/Metro – Central NY

Rural/Metro – Corning

Rural/Metro – Intermountain

Rural/Metro – New York City

Rural/Metro – Rochester

Rural/Metro – Western NY

Schenectady Ambulance Serv.

Seaway Valley Ambulance

Superior Ambulance

TLC EMS

Trans Am Ambulance

Twin City Ambulance

WCA Serv. Corp.