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House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
House of Representatives
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VIA FAX & US MAIL

As Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, you are most likely aware of the increase in fatal accidents among EMS flight programs. More often these accidents kill flight crews tasked with saving the lives of others. How do I know this? I know because my sister Erin was a flight nurse and 28-year EMS veteran who lost her life in a needless air medical accident.

I am writing to ask you to co-sponsor H.R. 3939, a bill that would protect flight crews and passengers on EMS aircraft. Currently, air medical programs are exempt from the most basic safety rules required in general aviation such as pilot duty rest, adherence to basic weather minimums, a common set of aviation dispatch procedures, and onboard cockpit data recorders.

Since Erin's death, 44 more people have died in air medical accidents. In the past last six months, there have been nine medical helicopter crashes and 17 deaths. According to the National Safety Council, air medical flight crews have the highest mortality rate of any profession outside the U.S. military.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you or your aide H.R. 3939 and S. 3229, an equally important air medical safety bill in the Senate.

You can reach me at 916-934-0472 or 916-425-3113 (cell).

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