



Director Meets with Senator Susan Collins

Recently Director of Operations Dean Milligan had an opportunity to be part of an award presentation by the Maine Ambulance Association to Senator Susan Collins. Director Milligan currently serves on the Executive Board of the Maine Ambulance Association representing not for profit ambulance services State wide. The award was to recognize Senator Collins for her continued dedication and service on behalf of all Maine Ambulance Services and personnel at the Federal Level. Senator Collins has been a strong voice and advocate for increased Medicare Reimbursement levels for ambulance providers throughout the Country and especially for rural ambulance services in Maine and Nationwide. Senator Collins was also instrumental in sponsoring a bill that has since brought thousands of Automated External Defibrillators to non traditional locations throughout communities across this Nation. Examples of placement of AED's approved under this program include public schools, airports, police cruisers, fire trucks, town halls, and non-profit community and recreation sites.

After having photos taken Director Milligan had an opportunity to speak directly with Senator Collins about several topics including that Med-Care has teamed up with and deployed over 60 AED's throughout the River Valley Communities since the inception of this program. In Senator Collins speech she eluded to the fact that around 600 had been deployed in Maine which shows that Med-Care has been directly involved with deploying 10% of the entire State's allocation. Senator Collins advised Dean that this program was created exactly for this reason and she knew up front the benefit that these devices would bring to rural Maine. She was ecstatic to hear the stories from so many people across the State of Maine of how these devices have saved lives.

Director Milligan also spoke with Senator Collins about the critical situation that ambulance services in the State of Maine are faced with in providing the highest quality of care to patients but not receiving adequate payments for those services through Medicare. They spoke directly about super rural areas in Maine and how bills supported by Senator Collins ensure an additional 12 to 15 percent reimbursement for services in those areas which includes all of Med-Care's towns. This bill has just recently ended due to the grid lock on the Health Care debate and needs to be a priority to get reinstated immediately. Senator Collins assured Dean that this program has the support of the majority in Senate and will either be renewed on its own merit or incorporated into the larger final healthcare bill.

Lastly Director Milligan had an opportunity to speak with Senator Collins about Stimulus Funding and the fact that Med-Care had put in a request for funding assistance for a new ambulance facility. Senator Collins informed Dean that it was an extremely competitive process but to not give up and to please submit a second request this year for the project funding.

We are extremely happy that our Director had an opportunity to not only meet Senator Collins but to have had the opportunity to speak with her about issues directly affecting our ambulance service and the River Valley Communities that we serve. We felt that it

was extremely important to let all of you know that the Director is involved on boards, teams, and committees that take him around the Country, State, and County, which all ultimately have a positive impact on our service to you here at the local level.