



## ERAMED LLC POSITION STATEMENT

### Reference to:

### **House of Representatives 978, The Helicopter Medical Services (HMS) Patient Safety, Protection, and Coordination Act**

The purpose of this letter is to offer EraMED's endorsement of the passage of the Helicopter Medical Services (HMS) Patient Safety, Protection and Coordination Act ("the Act") in the interest of ensuring that patient safety, quality patient care and coordination of helicopter medical services are properly overseen by state emergency medical services (EMS) and public health authorities.

Because the action taken during the first hour after a life-threatening injury can greatly increase a patient's survival rate, the use of helicopters for civilian medical flights in the United States gained momentum in the 1970s, and air medical services are now an integral, lifesaving part of community healthcare systems.

EraMED is a Part 135 Certificate Holder operating 10 medical helicopter programs serving hospitals and independent health care organizations in Florida, Tennessee, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Maine. EraMED was formed in 2007 incorporating the operating experience of the longest serving helicopter company in the U.S., Era Helicopters.

EraMED has an unwavering commitment to providing patients with safe, timely and life-saving medical care transport provided by highly trained professionals utilizing latest technology aircraft and equipment. While EraMED recognizes that states are empowered to oversee ground medical transportation, state oversight over HMS is less defined. EraMED also recognizes that the aviation safety system overseen by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the medical safety system overseen by state EMS and health authorities are distinct but inter-related regulatory schemes.

EraMED believes the Act will clarify the responsibility of states to govern the safety, regulatory compliance and security of helicopter air ambulances that are a fundamental component of patient, pilot and medical staff safety. Furthermore, the Act does not require states to issue new regulations, but simply promotes improved patient care, safety and coordination of HMS in which the state is not preempted by the Airline Deregulation Act (ADA) from public health oversight.

EraMED believes that all air medical helicopter operators should conform to a comprehensive, accountable system that will improve patient care by allowing states the authority to regulate the need and number of qualified Air Ambulance providers within their geographic regions. In addition, the states should be responsible for developing standards for the basic aspects of patient care and comfort.

To this end, EraMED publicly supports the passage of this Act and believes in the interest of enhancing the quality of patient care through a more coordinated, Air Medical Transport System.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry Umfleet", is written over a horizontal line.

Terry Umfleet  
VP, General Manager