



For Immediate Release
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Rep. Arrington Applauds Victory for Elderly & Vulnerable Patients as Freestanding ERs Gain CMS Recognition

Austin, TX –In response to notification by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) that freestanding emergency centers (FECs) are officially eligible to treat Medicare and Medicaid-insured patients, Representative Jodey Arrington, (R) Texas, stated the following:

“I’m pleased the Trump Administration activated freestanding emergency centers to help in the battle against COVID-19. By allowing these facilities to be reimbursed for Medicaid and Medicare, Texans have more options for care. And, with 1,500 in new hospital bed capacity, the Lone Star State is better prepared for its economic recovery as well as any resurgence in the fall.”

The announcement from CMS comes on the heels of a [letter to the agency authored by Rep. Arrington](#) – with support from Sen. Cruz and many other members of the Texas delegation – advocating for CMS to utilize its authority to provide Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement to FECs that are ready and able to serve vulnerable patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. FECs’ recognition as Medicare and Medicaid-approved healthcare facilities will increase capacity to the overall healthcare system by alleviating overcrowding in hospitals and providing elderly, rural and underserved patients with more and easier access to care.

While this recent action by CMS is limited to the public health emergency, the National Association of Freestanding Emergency Centers (NAFEC) will continue to advocate for a long-term solution. Permanent CMS recognition equips FECs with greater ability to expand into rural and underserved communities where healthcare infrastructure can be scarce, and patients may have few options.

About NAFEC

MISSION: To advocate for fair regulation and to raise statewide awareness of freestanding emergency centers as a high-quality, accessible emergency medical care option. **VISION:** The National Association of Freestanding

Emergency Centers (NAFEC) will be the expert association safeguarding, supporting, strengthening, and serving as the voice for the freestanding emergency center industry.