July 1, 2019

The Honorable Corey Gardner
The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
United States Senate
354 Russell Senate Office Building
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Gardner and Bennet:

We are writing to express our strong support for your legislation, the “Safe Helicopters Now Act” (S. 1560).

The Helicopter Association International (HAI) represents the international helicopter community. The Air Medical Operators Association (AMOA) members operate over 900 of the approximately 1000 aircraft performing air medical transports in the United States. The Association of Air Medical Services (AAMS) represents the entire air medical industry and over 250 air ambulance services across the country. HAI, AMOA and AAMS focus on a combined effort among our shared members to drive a zero-defect approach to aviation safety.

Our organizations supported the inclusion of language in the “FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018” (P.L. 115-254) to require installation of CRFS in all newly-manufactured helicopters. Our members have prioritized the use of crash resistant fuel systems (CRFS) to further enhance the safety of air medical rotorcraft. Moreover, in 2015, AMOA members announced a commitment, along with original equipment manufacturers, to install CRFS in all new aircraft and equip current aircraft with CRFS as those products become available.

By establishing a ten percent tax credit for qualified fuel system improvement costs for emergency medical rotorcraft, S. 1560 would provide further incentive for this important safety initiative. Fleet wide CRFS installation will be a significant capital investment, which will be facilitated by the tax incentive provided in your legislation. Enactment of S. 1560 will also signal that Congress and the federal government are prioritizing rotorcraft safety.
On behalf of our members and their employees, who are committed to improving the safe operation of air medical transportation, thank you for introducing this beneficial safety legislation. We look forward to supporting it through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Zuccaro  
President and CEO  
Helicopter Association International

Sally Veith  
Executive Director  
Air Medical Operators Association

Rick Sherlock  
President & CEO  
Association of Air Medical Services