SAFE KIDS
YELLOWSTONE COUNTY

Board of County Commissioners Ravalli County
215 S Fourth, Ste A
Hamilton, MT 59840-2853

January 9, 2019

Dear County Commissioners,

I am writing to inform you of a pediatric ambulance transport child restraint called the ACR4 and request your assistance in raising the funds to purchase them for the ambulance services across Montana.

We are working with Montana Emergency Medical Services for Children and Child Ready programs to make health care providers more prepared to safely transport ill and injured children across the state.

Across the country, the safe ambulance transport of children has been identified as a weakness. Based on studies and data, the conventional car seat is not adequate for ambulance use. New pediatric ambulance guidelines have been established, and the National Association of State EMS Officials (NASEMSO), has recommended that:

> *EMS agencies should have appropriately-sized child restraint system(s) readily available on all ambulances that may transport children. Additionally, personnel should be initially and recurrently evaluated and trained on the correct use of those restraint systems;*
>
> *i. The device(s) should cover, at minimum, a weight range of between five (5) and 99 pounds (2.3 - 45 kg), ideally supporting the safest transport possible for all persons of any age or size;*
>
> *ii. ii. Only the manufacturer's recommendations for the weight/size of the patient should be considered when selecting the appropriate device for the specific child being transported.*

We have researched the ambulance-specific pediatric safety devices presently available. At this time, the ACR4 from Quantum-EMS is the device that offers the safest means of transport for the widest range of pediatric patients.

The ACR4 offers:

- Full compliance with all United Kingdom safety standards (the Unites States has not yet tested restraint systems under the brand new ambulance safety standards.)
- The widest available weight range – 4 to 99 pounds
- Universally compatible with any ambulance stretcher and backboard
- Smart color coding for easy selection of 4 sizes
- Machine washable

- Quick release chest strap for medical intervention
- Breathable fabric maximizes airflow and meets infection control standards
- Rapid transition from sitting to lying flat in an emergency
- Padding for patient comfort and reduced risk of pressure sores during long transfers
- Compact 10x10 storage bag that is easily stored in ambulances with limited space

There are over 3,300 EMTs and Paramedics with the 265 EMS agencies in the state of Montana. Most of these agencies are volunteer services with limited budgets. We are looking to raise at least $300,000 to cover the cost of placing an ACR4 on all of Montana's approximately 400 frontline ambulances.

- Each ACR4 Retails for $799
- Quantum EMS Solutions has agreed to provide 400 ACR4 units to Montana EMSC/Child Ready for approx. $700 with free shipping (total $280,000)
- Distribution and training estimated total $20,000

We are asking each county to contribute a donation toward this statewide pediatric safety program, or to consider purchasing at least one for your local EMS service. If your county is able to contribute money to help keep our children safe, checks may be made out to:

Billings Clinic Foundation
ACR4 Fund
c/o Beth Bales
PO BOX 31031
Billings, MT 59107

Thank you for your consideration. Any additional questions may be sent to Koren Bloom Coordinator of Safe Kids Yellowstone County at koren.bloom@amr.net

Sincerely,

Koren Bloom

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