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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 11, 2018 CONTACT: Marie Brichetto Marie@MeridianHQ.com 916-648-1222

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT Monterey County Herald and Santa Cruz Sentinel Editorialize in Support of Proposition 11

**SACRAMENTO, CA** – The *Monterey County Herald* and the *Santa Cruz* 

Sentinel recently editorialized in support of Proposition 11, which will be on the November 6 statewide ballot. The measure continues the longstanding industry practice of paying private EMTs and paramedics to remain reachable during their work breaks in case of an emergency – just like public EMTs and paramedics, firefighters and police officers. Prop 11 continues this necessary practice, requires mental health support for EMTs and paramedics and offers several workplace protections. Most importantly, Prop 11 ensures lifesaving 911 emergency care remains available when it's needed most.

Read excerpts from the editorial, "California voters should approve props 11 and 12" below:

"Proposition 11 would continue to allow private ambulance services to require their emergency medical service employees to remain on call during meal and rest breaks. The measure also guarantees technicians receive additional training and some paid medical health services.

....

Although, again, we would prefer this was handled by the Legislature, voters should approve this measure. The U.S. Department of Health requires that ambulance services reach 75 percent of lifethreatening calls within eight minutes. This means providers need to adequately staff ambulances to meet those regulations. But if paramedics and EMT workers aren't available during work breaks, the independent state Legislative Analyst's Office estimates 25 percent more ambulance crews would be needed to meet state standards. Ambulance providers would be forced to either absorb the additional losses or pass the estimated total cost of more than \$100 million a year on to local governments and their taxpayers.

Labor unions are opposed to this measure, which they argue is a special carve out for one industry.

But Prop. 11 also protects workers, by requiring that meal breaks not be during the first or last hour of a shift and that breaks be spaced at least two hours apart. If workers are needed to respond to a call during a break, that break would not be counted as a required break.

Voters should approve Proposition 11."

Read the editorial in its entirety on the *Monterey County Herald's* website <u>HERE</u> and on the *Santa Cruz Sentinel's* website <u>HERE</u>.

Proposition 11 establishes into law the longstanding industry practice of paying private EMTs and paramedics to remain reachable during their work breaks in case of an emergency – just like public EMTs and paramedics, firefighters and police officers. For more information, visit: www.YESon11.org.

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