• Dramatic changes occurring in nation’s suburbs:
  — Population growth outstripping emergency care capacity in many suburbs
  — More affluent suburbs are target of hospital growth, especially for specialty care

• Federal-state leadership must support local providers and communities in creating a regional system of emergency care that ensures equitable access across urban, suburban and rural areas:
  — Develop or maintain a viable regional health care safety net for underserved populations.
  — Explicitly include suburban facilities in transfer protocols, referral networks, and centralized inventory of emergency capabilities.
  — Incentivize suburban specialists to support EDs with inadequate on-call specialty physicians
  — Link expertise, staff and resources of urban EDs to suburban/exurban/rural facilities to enhance regional coordination of emergency care supportive services and protocols, e.g., interpreter services
  — Promote collaboration on public policy that integrates regional planning for transportation, sprawl, zoning and other factors that impact the effectiveness of regional emergency care systems.