

A Newsletter for the Members of the Minnesota Chapter - Spring 2023

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Happy summer, colleagues—

It seems as though the winter has finally left us and summer is here. Summer is my favorite time of the year, not only because I enjoy the weather, but because it affords me the time to travel with my family. Travel is my break from the challenges we deal with clinically and it recharges me. I hope each of you have found a way to refill your cup, as the work we do clinically, operationally, and in advocacy for our patients remains formidable on a good day.

MNACEP is looking to take some of that burden from you. Recently, a number of our members participated in ACEP's Leadership and Advocacy conference in Washington, DC, where Minnesotans met with our legislators to share the struggles we face when caring for our patients. Additionally, our team is planning an in-person winter conference where we can re-connect as a community and discuss hot topics both in our practice as well as in the operations of our departments. Lastly, we're revamping our communication tools to make it easier for you to find the resources you need from us and our national office—watch for more info on a new website

and updates on our social media platforms.

Please reach out to the Board if we can be of service.

Thank you for what you do,
Heather

Leadership and Advocacy Conference

by Paul Allegra, MD, FACEP

The National ACEP Leadership and Advocacy Conference was held April 31 through May 2 in Washington, DC, and was a refreshing post COVID-19 reset as it was our first return to full in-person meetings with our Congressional leaders. We had good attendance with energy and enthusiasm as we spoke to our Minnesota Senators and Representatives on three topics, which were all very well received.

We discussed the nature of ED Boarding and advised creation of a task force to look at the complex issue to ideally reduce stress in our departments. The second topic was a measure to strengthen protections against ED workplace violence. The final was advocating for ensuring that annual Medicare payment updates for physicians keep pace with inflation which was remarkably well received.

Once again, the fellows, residents and EMRA students shined advocating for us at the highest levels. This year Adiba Matin MD, Doug Moss MD, Carrie Johnson, Austin Waara MD and Erin Karl MD led with thoughtful commentary.

This year's conference was also our inaugural with our new Executive Director Sarah Luebbert whose knowledge and expertise as the longstanding and current Executive Director for Missouri allowed for tremendous guidance. In addition to visiting the legislators during the dine around events at the Capital, particularly the Congressional Reception in the Rotunda, allowed for great dialogue and discussion with colleagues and legislators alike. Next year's dates for our ACEP Leadership and Advocacy Conference are April 14-15, 2024. Feel free to reach out to any of us if you are interested or sign up when the time comes.

2023 Legislative Session Overview

by Buck McAlpin, MNACEP Legislative Liaison

With the close of this legislative session, the legislature passed a complete state budget on time and utilized the over \$17B surplus over the next four years. With a very slim vote majority in the Senate (34 DFL and 33 GOP), the DFL caucus remained quite cohesive throughout the session, despite many stakeholders seeing the thin margin as an opportunity to moderate proposals. The DFL did complete many of their big-ticket items – significant increases in education funding, large tax

<https://elink.clickdimensions.com/m/1/61309708/02-b23151-84711ad942b141b8a2df29308256be17/1/601/ebf90848-f18f-4e3c-9c4...>
many of them big ticket items – significant increases in education funding, large tax cuts and tax increases, significant infrastructure investments, protecting reproductive rights, legalizing adult use cannabis, among others.

Across the budget areas, the DFL trifecta was able to pass several provisions they have been working on for over a decade while we have had divided government, and, of course, passed a few provisions that will have various impacts to health care. Notably, a few of the most detrimental policy proposals were transitioned to less harmful provisions or studies throughout the course of the legislative session, like: eliminating the PSA laws in emergency services, significant nurse staffing language in the Keeping the Nurses at the Bedside Act, transitioning the pharmacy benefit to fee-for-service with potential 340B impacts to hospitals, and opening up MinnesotaCare to anyone who wished to purchase insurance in this government sponsored product without guardrails or increases in reimbursements.

Brief descriptions of some of the proposals that will have an impact on our members and organizations [are posted on the MNACEP website.](#)

The next legislative session will begin on February 12, 2024, at noon. This late start next year will give the Board and Policy and Advocacy Committee opportunities to continue to meet and discuss a legislative platform for the 2024 session.

I want to thank all of you for your involvement during the 2023 legislative session. MNACEP had a strong showing out at Physician's Day at the Capitol. Next session, we will work to make that a stronger and more organized event around ED care and legislative needs.

Also, we will continue the work on payment denial and drafting legislation with Senator Mann that we began with Drs. Thomas and Cho. This topic continues to garner media and legislative attention, especially with UHC. I would anticipate a task force to be called by the legislature in this interim to discuss in alignment with the Attorney General's Office.

The Nurse at the Bedside Act is a prime example of what happens when an advocacy group this size comes together and opposes a piece of legislation that is just bad public policy.

And, we will begin to work on an ED Physicians' dinner with key legislators for this fall. I think that's a great idea. Specially to have our Doctor Caucus attend, Drs. Klein, Morrison, and Mann. This would be a great way to launch a 2024 legislative platform.

Any questions or issues I can help you with please do not hesitate to reach out to me at buck@libbylawoffice.com or 763-213-2645.

New MNACEP Fellow Member

Congratulations to our newest ACEP Fellow! If you would like to find out more about becoming an ACEP Fellow (FACEP) [click here](#).

Christopher J Kaczmarczyk, DO, FACEP

Welcome New MNACEP Members!

Anna Branstad
Alec Bunting DO
Anst-Bidry Gelin, MD
Katrina Hartman
Romi Lee
Nicole Minnerath
Dziwe Ntaba, MD
Cody Rasner
Taylor Sheldon

Graduating in June? Renew Today. Get Discounted Dues, and Stay Involved

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation! ACEP and MNACEP have been with you throughout your training, and we're excited to stay by your side as you continue your EM journey. ACEP is the only EM organization that invested \$1M+ of our member dues dollars to push back on scope creep. ACEP is currently involved in – not one, but nine -lawsuits to protect your autonomy and reimbursement. We also know money is tight. That's why ACEP discounts dues 75 percent in your first year after residency or fellowship. Help us stay in the fight. [Renew Today](#).

FROM NATIONAL ACEP



Take Action

Contact Congress about the ED Boarding Crisis. Our hospital emergency departments (EDs) have reached or are past the breaking point. **Right now, you can urge your legislators to cosponsor** the bipartisan "Improving Mental Health Access from the Emergency Department Act," (S. 1346). Your voice and your stories are critical in bringing Congress' attention to the crisis of boarding and making it a priority to find solutions for patients – their constituents. [Click here to take action](#) and [read our press release](#).

Urge your legislators to cosponsor two bipartisan bills to address violence in the ED:

- [The "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act" \(H.R. 2663/S. 1176\)](#)
- [The "SAVE Act" \(H.R. 2584\)](#)

ACEP Resources & Latest News

New Indiana Bill Requires Hospital EDs to Have a Physician On Site. Indiana recently passed legislation that will require every emergency department in the state to have a physician onsite and responsible for the ED. Thanks to the tireless advocacy of Indiana ACEP, patients who need emergency care across the state of Indiana now have reassurance that a physician will be in the emergency department at all hours to provide high quality patient care. [Read more](#).

As the situation with Envision develops, ACEP is focused on you - the emergency physician. We continue to monitor the transition closely and will ensure our members are empowered in their next steps. If you need help, [view these resources](#).

Randy Pilgrim, MD, is presenting "**Emergency Medicine Legislation: Bringing Health Policy to the Bedside**" at 6 p.m. ET on June 8. You're invited to the live discussion on how health policy debate and legislation in the U.S. Congress and state legislatures impacts emergency medicine physicians and the delivery of care to patients. [Sign up](#).

How does advocacy affect reimbursement? Jordan G. R. Celeste, MD, FACEP, ACEP's RUC Advisor, [gives a helpful overview](#) in this regulatory blog post.

Press Release: To Improve Mental Health Care, Address the Nation's Emergency Department Boarding Crisis (May 24, 2023)

The American College of Emergency Physicians urges policymakers to address the nation's boarding crisis, reduce excessive delays in care, and prevent avoidable clinical complications, especially for patients with mental health conditions. [READ MORE](#).

CONGRATULATIONS to the [winners of ACEP's 2023 Leadership & Excellence and Council Awards!](#)

Contact Us

[Exacerbation in the ED](#), available on [acep.org](#) and the ACEP Mobile app, walks through clinical features, pharmacologic treatments, life-threatening presentations, pediatric and pregnant considerations, discharge planning and more. [573-636-2144](#) | mnacep@gmail.com | [Website](#)

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Getting too many emails? Update your [ACEP Email Subscription Center](#) and select only what you want to receive.

[Emergency physicians in risk mitigation for gun violence.](#)

- The [Annals of EM podcast](#) covers topics from its May issue, including diagnostic pathways for pulmonary embolisms and the use of femoral doppler in cardiac arrest.

EngagED has a new look! [Check out our new homepage hub](#) that makes it easy for you to find the conversations you want to join. It's easier than ever to connect with your ACEP peers.

[Join the Climate & Energy MIG](#) to study and implement ways to decrease the carbon impact of our specialty. This new group has an interest in combating climate change, decreasing the use of single-use plastics in medicine and those who see the connection between climate change and global health.

E-QUAL is accepting applications for its venous thromboembolism (VTE) Initiative Technical Expert Panel (TEP). Share your expertise and passion in both the VTE and Quality Improvement space. Learn more and fill out [this interest form](#).

Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

June 5-9: [ED Directors Academy, Phase I](#)

June 8: [Emergency Medicine Legislation: Bringing Health Policy to the Redside](#) (live presentation discussion)

June 13: [First Responder Mental Health: Healthcare Burnout and Law Enforcement Suicide Risk and Prevention](#) (webinar)

June 21: [To Start a Medication or Not Start a Medication... That is the Question](#) (webinar)

June 22: [Empowering Your Time: Practical Strategies To Do More Of What Matters](#) (AAWEP Summer Webinar Series)

July 25: [Last day to apply for the Annals of Emergency Medicine Resident Fellow](#)

Oct 9-12: [ACEP23 Scientific Assembly](#), Philadelphia, PA
