



Minnesota ACEP Policy and Legislative Update

Stay up-to-date with the latest policy and advocacy efforts from Minnesota ACEP.

Minnesota ACEP Chapter Lobbyist



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Legislative Update

Members, as we enter the final full week of March, we also approach the Easter legislative break at the State Capitol. The Legislature will adjourn on Friday, March 27, and will not return until April 7 for the final push to the end of the 2026 session. Last week, the Governor released his supplemental budget. I do not believe I have ever seen a budget bill this small in all my years at the State Capitol. With a \$3.7 billion surplus, the Governor proposes spending only \$60 million. Most of the funding and budget proposals focus on fraud prevention within DHS and updating legacy software and hardware that's utilized to manage the state's Medicaid system. The Governor also proposes eliminating managed care and moving the payment system and the administration of all Medicaid into a single DHS model. Now the divided House and the DFL majority Senate will work on their proposed supplemental budgets that they will prepare for budget negotiations after the Easter legislative break.

Last week, we met with the lobbyist for the Trial Lawyers for Justice to discuss our provisions within the [Health Care Provider Actions](#) bill. Obviously, they opposed anything to do with liability caps and believe caps are unconstitutional and have been upheld in other State Supreme Courts. Again, this would be a legislative conversation. We also discussed changing the 4-years to a 2-year statute of limitations for filing a claim or action. Many years ago, a deal was reached with between the Minnesota Medical Association and the Trial Lawyers around the length of time to file a claim and the statutes around discovery. I am digging into the issue a bit more. The Trial Lawyer lobbyist did offer that there may be room for conversation around the issue of physician personal asset protection. We will continue to work on this bill and explore opportunities to get it across the finish line at the legislature. There is a larger group and other lobbyists working on this along with MNACEP.

The [first-dollar coverage bill](#) is receiving pushback, as I have met with legislators to get it heard this week before Friday's committee deadlines. The insurance lobby is concerned about the relationship between the insured and the insurer under contract law. They also refer to the ACA and the ability to allow high-deductible health plans to be used as a tool in alignment with health

savings accounts. The issue I hear from many providers is that they have no way to access the HSA balance or ensure a customer pays their bill. Which, of course, then just turns to uncompensated care.

The issue of uncompensated care in health care continues to be a hot topic in the legislature. This past week, HCMC and North Memorial testified in the House tax committee to the financial hardship those facilities face with the high amount of Government payor mix, uncompensated care, and the impact of Federal HF #1 changes coming. Especially, for HCMC, which was receiving enhanced Medicaid payments under a program called directed payments that would increase the amount of Federal support to the Safety Net.

Over the last month, I have been involved with a group including safety net providers and the hospital association, drafting legislation to develop a statewide uncompensated care pool. The State and the Governor recognize the need to address this issue to bring stability to the safety net. In the Governor's budget, he also proposes funding a work group to look at the safety net and, most importantly, HCMC. If this work group becomes law, we will work diligently to ensure MNACEP has a seat at that table during the conversation.

In the upcoming week of the session, we will continue meeting with legislators and committee chairs to advance some of the association's priorities. The session has focused on some polarizing issues we discussed in past updates that continue to dominate the committee schedule. Once the legislature returns from its break, it will focus on assembling its supplemental budget and policy bills to wrap up the session. The Governor's budget only proposed spending \$60 million of new money this session while rolling most of the \$3.7 billion dollars surplus over to the next bi-annual budget session in 2027.

I would also like to thank MNACEP President Dr. Paul Allegra and Policy Committee Chair Dr. Rob Thomas for their work at the Capitol this session, discussing key issues.

I believe there will be a conversation with legislative leadership in the last few weeks of the session to address uncompensated care and stabilize the safety net. Although I believe that will be a short-term fix, we will be seeking a long-term solution.

Also, when you have time, a personalized message to your local legislator really helps educate them on what's important to you as a constituent. Below are the details for contacting your legislators.

Reach out to your Legislators

We have developed webpages with details on each of our priority issues. Click the links below to see the talking points:

- [**Health Care Provider Bill**](#)

- [First Dollar Coverage bill](#)

Legislative outreach:

We will be working with the Policy and Advocacy committee this week on opportunities to meet at the Capitol during floor sessions to connect with some legislators.

Also, the best way for a constituent to connect with their legislator is to email them and outline the legislation detailed above. Again you can find your legislator's at: <https://gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/>

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out.

Email: buck@libbylawoffice.com

Ph: 763-213-2645

Upcoming Events



The banner features the MN ACEP logo on the left, with 'EMERGENCY MEDICINE SUMMIT' in a dark blue box. On the right, a teal box contains the date 'MAY 7, 2026' and the location 'UNION DEPOT, 214 4TH STREET EAST, SAINT PAUL, MN 55101'. A central blue box with a white border contains the text 'Early Bird Rate ending soon!' in a white script font. Below this, a white box contains the text 'Register by April 1, 2026 to save money!'. On the bottom left, a dark blue box contains the text 'CLICK HERE TO REGISTER:' and the URL 'HTTPS://BIT.LY/MNSUMMIT26'.

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HAS AN

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OUR TEXT ALERTS.

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