



## Minnesota ACEP Policy and Legislative Update

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

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### Minnesota ACEP Chapter Lobbyist



Buck McAlpin

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MNACEP Members,

The 2026 legislative session ended Sunday night at midnight. That was the constitutional deadline to pass any legislation in the second year of the legislative calendar. The legislature reconvened session on Monday, May 18, to come together and hear legislative retirement speeches. This 2026

legislature may break a state record for the number of retirements happening in an election year. The House and Senate have numerous legislators not seeking re-election, retiring, or running for another legislative seat (either at a state or federal level). Also, Speaker of the House Demuth is running to be the Republican-endorsed candidate for Governor.

Over the next few weeks, the Democrats and Republicans will hold their respective endorsement conventions to select a candidate to run for Governor. Obviously, the DFL will endorse Senator Amy Klobuchar. On the Republican side, current Speaker of the House Lisa Demuth and businessman Kendall Qualls seem to be in the driver's seat for endorsement.

Also, all 67 Senators and 134 House members are up for election or re-election this fall. As I mentioned above, the changeover in the legislature, besides the Governor, will be impactful. The list of announcements of retirements [can be found here](#).

With this turnover, we will see all three physicians we have enjoyed having in the MN Senate move on to either federal office or leave the legislature in 2027.

These changes can present both challenges and opportunities as we evaluate our advocacy outreach platform in the upcoming legislative session. Outreach meetings and communications will be key to the 2027 legislative efforts and the work the MNACEP Policy Committee completes with your support of the MEPAC fund. Over the next few months, as we approach the November election, MNACEP MEPAC will reach out for financial support for candidates. We will work closely with the executive committee to identify opportunities for our members to join us at targeted events that will impact MNACEP's 2027 legislative agenda.

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## 2026 Legislative Session Overview:

### Healthcare Provider Protection Act

Did not Pass - Will be a 2027 legislative priority

#### Key Provisions

- A plaintiff can only collect against a provider's personal income and assets if: 1) the provider's conduct was found to be willful, malicious, or intentionally fraudulent; or 2) the provider did not maintain at least \$1 million in insurance coverage.
- Courts may award economic damages—past, present, and future—up to the amount actually paid by the plaintiff or insurer for medical expenses related to the injury.
- A plaintiff may only recover non-economic losses to compensate for pain, suffering, and inconvenience, and must not exceed \$500,000.
- The current law allows patients to file malpractice suits within four years from the accrual of the cause of action. SF 3489 would reduce this window to two years.

## **First Dollar Coverage bill (alternative mechanism for prompt payment)**

Did not pass - will be a 2027 legislative priority

### **Key Provisions**

- Would mandate certain health plans detailed in this legislation to provide prompt payment
- Would apply to health plans sold with very high deductibles. \$3,000 per person or \$6,000 annually
- Applies to all emergency ambulance transports and emergency department care
- Mandates the health plan pay the providers directly for their charges and mandates the health plan collect from the high-deductible enrollee

### **Legislation Opposed by MNACEP:**

- Changing the title from Physician Assistant to Physician Associate (bill did not pass due to opposition)

### **Legislation Supported by MNACEP:**

- Funding for HCMC sustainability (passed)
- Development and funding of the hospital stabilization program statewide (passed)
- Uncompensated care fund for other mandated health care providers (did not pass)
- Extension of 340B program (did not pass) still has one year of funding left
- Rebasing of Medicaid rates

### **Key health provisions that needed to pass this session**

- Federal conformity that aligned with the passage of HF# 1 (passed in supplemental health bill) kept \$2.5 billion of federal Medicaid funding coming in.

### **Firearm legislation**

The legislature had a robust and very passionate debate this session on gun control bills. The Senate, towards the end of the session, passed a bill on a 34-33 bipartisan vote and sent it to the House. With the house divided 50/50 and the Speaker having total control of the floor calendar, the House never brought up the message from the Senate, and no House vote was taken on this issue.

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The 2026 Legislative Session may be over, but it's never too early to sign up to receive advocacy alerts from MNACEP in preparation of the 2027 Session!

**SIGN UP**



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## Join the Movement

Become a member of Minnesota ACEP and contribute to the growth of emergency medicine in the region.

**Learn more**



Together, we can lead as a proactive and influential presence in the field of emergency medicine in Minnesota.

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Sent to: [exec@mnacep.org](mailto:exec@mnacep.org)