



**ACEP 911 Network Weekly Update:  
February 10, 2017**

**Congress was in session early this week then Democratic members headed to Baltimore, MD for a two-day retreat. The Senate remained in session to consider and advance more of the Trump administration's cabinet nominees. Both the House and Senate will be in session next week.**

- **ACEP and EMRA Board Members in Washington, DC**
- **ACEP President Becky Parker Hosts Teleforum with Rep. Diane Black (R-TN)**
- **Dr. Price Confirmed As New Secretary of HHS**
- **Nominee for VA Secretary Advances**
- **ACA Repeal-Replace Legislation Under Consideration**
- **Congressional Hearings**
- **2017 Leadership and Advocacy Conference - Highlighted Speakers, Sessions, and Congressional Dine-Arounds/Socials**

**ACEP and EMRA Board Members in Washington, DC**

This week, several ACEP and EMRA Board members (ACEP President Rebecca Parker; ACEP President-Elect Paul Kivela; Chair of the ACEP Board Dr. John Rogers; new ACEP Board member Gillian Schmitz; EMRA President-Elect Zach Jarou; EMRA Board member Christian Dameff; and ACEP Executive Director Dean Wilkerson) were in the nation's capital to attend new Board member orientation, participate in several meetings with lawmakers and receive media training.

On Tuesday, the ACEP-EMRA representatives met with House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee Ranking Member Rep. Gene Green (D-TX); emergency physician and member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee Dr. Raul Ruiz (D-CA); House Appropriations Military Construction-Veterans Subcommittee Chairman and sponsor of the EMTALA liability bill Charlie Dent (R-PA); and key health care and VA staff for Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA). During dinner that evening, House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Chairman Pat Tiberi (R-OH) and House Chief Majority Whip Patrick McHenry (R-NC) visited with the emergency physicians. During the meetings, the ACEP and EMRA representatives were able to discuss protecting patients' access to emergency services as the Congress contemplates repealing the Affordable Care Act, emergency/trauma issues, EMTALA liability protections for emergency and on-call physicians, establishing fair and transparent out-of-network reimbursement rates for emergency services, and Veterans' Affairs emergency health care issues.

On Wednesday, Dr. Parker and Mr. Wilkerson met with House Energy and Commerce

Health Subcommittee Chairman Dr. Mike Burgess (R-TX).

### **ACEP Teleforum on Health Care Reform in the 115th Congress**

Later on Wednesday, Dr. Parker hosted a teleforum for ACEP members with House Budget Committee Chairman Diane Black (R-TN). The teleforum was the fourth in an ongoing series hosted by ACEP to keep 911 members and others interested in federal advocacy updated on the latest initiatives in Congress impacting emergency physicians and patients. Listeners are given the opportunity to ask questions during the call and are provided with information on how to contact their federal legislators and further their advocacy efforts.

To listen to the teleforum with Congressman Black, [click here](#).



*ACEP Congressional Affairs Director Brad Gruehn, ACEP Board Chair Dr. John Rogers, ACEP Executive Director Dean Wilkerson, ACEP President-Elect Dr. Paul Kivela, EMRA President-Elect Zach Jarou, EMRA Board member Christian Dameff and ACEP Board member Gillian Schmitz.*



*ACEP/EMRA representatives with Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA)*



*ACEP/EMRA members with Dr. Raul Ruiz (D-CA)*



*Dr. Parker and Mr. Wilkerson with Dr. Mike Burgess (R-TX)*

### **Dr. Price Confirmed as New HHS Secretary**

Early Friday morning, the Senate confirmed Dr. Tom Price (R-GA) as the next Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). He was approved by a vote of 52 to 47, which fell along party lines. Dr. Price will be the first physician to lead HHS since Dr. Louis Sullivan stepped down at the end of the first Bush Administration in January 1993.

### **Nominee for VA Secretary Advances**

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Thursday overwhelmingly advanced to the full Senate the nomination of David Shulkin, M.D., to serve as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. The vote was 15 to 0 to approve Shulkin. He has served as VA under secretary for health since July 2015. Prior to Mr. Shulkin's public service; he was a physician and chief medical officer and hospital health system leader at Morristown Memorial Hospital in New Jersey. The panel's chairman, Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA), has said he aims to secure Shulkin's confirmation quickly as his nomination has yet to draw any significant opposition.

### **ACA Repeal-Replace Legislation Under Consideration**

According to senior congressional sources, four health care replacement measures are under consideration, with a goal of beginning work on the legislation in the relevant House

committees by the end of February. The GOP is hoping to get the next key vote in March on an emerging blueprint that would include expanding Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), establishing high-risk health insurance pools, reforming Medicaid and authorizing tax credits to help Americans buy insurance policies. The replacement policies would be rolled into a measure repealing the 2010 health care law, which will be taken up and passed under an expedited process (known as reconciliation) only requiring 51 votes for passage in the Senate.

ACEP has shared its Emergency Medicine Health Care Reform Principles with all Members of Congress in preparation for these discussions. To read the Principles document, [click here](#).

### **Hearings this Week**

The House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee on Tuesday approved two bills making minor modifications to Medicaid, becoming the first legislation advanced by the panel as Republicans consider capping the program's budget through their efforts to replace the Affordable Care Act. The "Prioritizing the Most Vulnerable Over Lottery Winners Act of 2017" (H.R. 829) was sponsored by Rep. Fred Upton (R-MI) and was approved by a vote of 20 to 12. The bill would require states to consider certain lump sum payments when determining eligibility based on modified adjusted gross income for Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. The "Close Annuity Loopholes in Medicaid (CALM) Act," introduced by Reps. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) and Brett Guthrie (R-KY), H.R. 181, was approved 19 to 13. It would count certain income from annuities when determining a spouse's Medicaid eligibility for long-term care. The bills will now be considered by the full committee. To view the mark up, please [click here](#).

Also this week, the House Small Business Committee held a hearing on "Reimagining the Health Care Marketplace for America's Small Businesses." To view the hearing [click here](#).

### **Register for the 2017 Leadership and Advocacy Conference March 12-15, 2017 in Washington, D.C.**

With a new Administration, Congress, and legislative agenda, the need for emergency physicians' involvement in the legislative and political process is greater than ever before. Highlights include confirmed speaker ZDoggMD and invited speakers: Sen Tim Kaine (D-VA); newly confirmed HHS Secretary, Rep. Tom Price (R-GA); and nominee for CMS Administrator, Seema Verma. ACEP Board Member Dr. Mark Rosenberg will host a session on "Creating Solutions to the Opioid Epidemic" and Ed Gaines, Dr. Alison Haddock, and Dr. Nathan Schlicher will host a session on "Out-of-Network/Balance Billing – Where are We?"

On Tuesday, March 14, attendees will head to Capitol Hill for ACEP's Lobby Day. ACEP members' insight is critical this year as Congress works to shape the nation's delivery of health care. Ensure that emergency medicine is well-represented by registering here now!

### **Congressional Dine-Arounds & Socials during LAC**

NEMPAC will again be hosting Congressional Dine-Arounds and Socials for key members of congress during the LAC. Consider joining ACEP leaders and influential lawmakers at one of these exclusive events. A minimum donation to the Member of Congress' campaign is

suggested for participation, which will be combined with the support provided by NEMPAC.

Confirmed legislators include: Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT), Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA), Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-OH), Rep. Mike Burgess (R-TX) and Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR).

For additional information, contact ACEP Political Affairs Director Jeanne Slade at [jslade@acep.org](mailto:jslade@acep.org).



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