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Mark Rosenberg, DO, FACEP, Appointed to Federal Opioid Task Force

In a major achievement for emergency medicine, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Alex Azar appointed Mark Rosenberg, DO, MBA, FACEP, FACOEP-D, FAAHPM, to the HHS Pain Management Best Practices Interagency Task Force. The Task Force, established under the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2016, is a joint effort between the HHS Secretary, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Secretary of Defense to take steps to address the nation's opioid epidemic. The Task Force has been assigned the responsibilities of determining whether there are gaps or inconsistencies in pain management practices among federal agencies, proposing recommendations to address these issues, providing the public with an opportunity to review and comment on these recommendations, and developing a strategy on disseminating information about best practices. Dr. Rosenberg's experience and expertise as the founder and leader of the Alternatives to OpiatesSM (ALTO) program at St. Joseph's Hospital in Paterson, NJ, will be invaluable in ensuring the voice of emergency medicine is well represented as the Task Force carries out its mission. He is also a member of the ACEP Board of Directors.

Congress Continues Efforts on Opioid Epidemic

Both the House of Representatives and Senate continue their multi-pronged efforts to curb the nation's opioid epidemic. On Friday, February 16, ACEP submitted [comments](#) in response to the Senate Finance Committee's request for information on how the Medicare and Medicaid programs can better identify, prevent, and treat opioid use disorder and substance use disorder. In similar fashion, on February 27, the House Ways & Means Committee issued their own request for information on how to prevent and treat opioid abuse and dependence within the scope of the Medicare program. Meanwhile, the House Energy &

Commerce Committee continued its own look into the opioid epidemic, holding the first of several planned legislative hearings on bills to help address the crisis. ACEP is working to secure a witness to testify before the committee on how emergency physicians are responding to the opioid epidemic.

Additionally, eight bipartisan senators introduced the “Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) 2.0,” the anticipated second iteration of the CARA bill that originally passed in 2016. While this legislation contains some important provisions, it also includes some areas of significant concern for emergency medicine, such as a provision limiting opioid prescribing to no more than three days with no exceptions for a physician’s clinical judgement. ACEP staff is working with the sponsors of the legislation to address these significant concerns and improve the bill as this debate moves forward.

MISSION Zero and Other ACEP-supported Legislation Successfully Passed in House

On Monday, February 26, the House of Representatives passed several pieces of legislation supported and monitored by ACEP. H.R. 880, the MISSION Zero Act, sponsored by Representative Mike Burgess (R-TX), was supported by ACEP and would allow military trauma teams to provide care at civilian trauma centers, helping fill gaps in these trauma centers while also promoting military readiness. ACEP continues working to secure its enactment into law, whether as a standalone bill or as part of the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) reauthorization due this year.

Additionally, the House passed the ACEP-supported H.R. 2410, the Sickle Cell Disease Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act of 2017, sponsored by Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL), legislation to enhance efforts to understand this disease and ultimately find a cure.

Finally, the House passed H.R. 767, the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond (SOAR) to Health and Wellness Act, sponsored by Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN), to help train health care and other providers to identify potential human trafficking victims and coordinate appropriate treatment.

[ACEP Capital Minute](#)

[Click here](#) for a video update by Laura Wooster, ACEP Associate Executive Director of Public Affairs, with the latest developments in Washington, D.C. that affect emergency physicians and patients.

This week, we report on:

Anthem changes it’s emergency care policy – but it’s not good enough. Are other insurers already to starting to follow Anthem?

Details on the CARA 2.0 Addiction and Recovery Act of 2018;

Details on the Mission Zero military/civilian trauma act;

Details on the reauthorization of the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act.

If you haven't already done so, please subscribe to [ACEP's YouTube Channel](#).

Registration Open - 2018 Leadership & Advocacy Conference

May 20-23 in Washington, D.C.

First-timers will receive special training on how to meet and educate your Members of Congress while seasoned participants will build upon valuable Congressional connections. Join hundreds of your emergency medicine colleagues to advocate for legislation advancing emergency care, regardless of party labels. Experts on health care policy and political and grassroots advocacy will lead our discussions. May 22 is ACEP Lobby Day where hundreds of emergency physicians head to Capitol Hill to meet with legislators and their staff to discuss the most pressing issues facing emergency medicine and patients.

To register or for more information, [click here](#).

View our gallery of photos from the [LAC17 here](#).



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