



ACEP 911 Network Weekly Update: March 3, 2017

The House and Senate will be in session next week.

- **President Outlines Health Care Reform Principles during Congressional Address**
- **Republican Leaders Continue to Work on ACA Repeal/Replace Plan**
- **Senate Version of EMTALA Liability Bill Introduced this Week**
- **CMS Administrator - Nominee Advances**
- **Hearings and Mark-ups**
- **2017 Leadership and Advocacy Conference is Almost Here!**

President Addresses Joint Session of Congress

President Trump used his national address on Tuesday night to outline several principles for repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, although he did not provide any new policy specifics. His health care objectives include: confronting the high cost of prescription medications; ensuring people with pre-existing conditions have access to insurance; allowing individuals and families to purchase the health insurance plans they want using tax credits and expanded Health Savings Accounts (HSAs); providing States with resources and flexibility to govern their Medicaid programs; implementing medical liability reforms; and allowing people to purchase health insurance across state lines.

To view ACEP President Rebecca Parker's, MD, FACEP, response to the speech, [click here](#).

Republicans Internally Debate ACA Repeal, Action in House Expected Soon

On Feb. 24, the House Republican plan to replace the ACA was leaked to mixed reviews. The 106-page measure would repeal federal coverage mandates, taxes created by the ACA, tax subsidies to help individuals purchase health insurance, and federal Essential Health Benefits (instead shifting authority to set minimum coverage standards to States). Instead of coverage subsidies, individuals would receive refundable, advanceable tax credits of \$2,000 - \$4,000 (based on age). The plan would also increase incentives to utilize HSAs, provide \$100 billion to create the State Innovation Grants and Stability Program, phase-down State Medicaid expansions, and covert pre-ACA Medicaid into a system of per-capita subsidies, among other things.

The draft document was already two weeks old when it leaked and Republicans have since made several modifications to it. However, the revised plan has only been available for review by a select group of Republican House members to date even though House Republican leadership has expressed their goal of voting on the package by the end of the

month and the House Energy and Commerce Committee may even consider the legislation next week.

ACEP and a few other medical specialty groups met with HHS Secretary Dr. Tom Price earlier this week to discuss health care reform and ACEP continues to share its [Emergency Medicine Health Care Reform Principles](#) with members of the House and Senate.

EMTALA Liability Bill Introduced in Senate

This week, Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO) introduced the "Health Care Safety Net and Enhancement Act" (S. 527) as a companion to the House bill (H.R. 548) sponsored by Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA). The legislation addresses the growing crisis in access to emergency care by providing emergency and on-call physicians who perform EMTALA-related services with temporary protections under the Federal Tort Claims Act. Promoting these bills will be one of the top priorities for ACEP members when they participate in their meeting with lawmakers during Leadership and Advocacy Conference on March 14.

CMS Administrator-Nominee Advances in Senate

On Thursday, the Senate Finance Committee advanced the nomination of Ms. Seema Verma, by a party-line vote of 13 to 12, to head the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The committee originally convened on Wednesday to vote on the nomination but delayed action because there weren't enough Republicans present to ensure success. Ms. Verma is expected to receive a final vote on the Senate floor next week when she is expected to be confirmed.

Hearings and Mark-Ups

On Tuesday, the House Judiciary Committee considered several bills related to medical liability and insurance reforms. To view the mark-up, click [here](#).

On Wednesday, the House Education and Workforce Committee held a hearing on "Legislative Proposals to Improve Health Care Coverage and Provide Lower Costs for Families." To view the hearing, click [here](#).

On Thursday, the House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee held a hearing on "Examining FDA's Generic Drug and Biosimilar User Fee Programs." To view the hearing, click [here](#).

Are you ready for the [2017 Leadership and Advocacy Conference](#)?

March 12-15, 2017 in Washington, D.C.

Don't miss the opportunity to take your advocacy to the next level and your message to Capitol Hill with hundreds of your emergency physician colleagues.

Highlights include:

- Sen. Tim Kaine from Virginia discussing health care reform;
- ZDoggMD (Zubin Damania, MD) on Burnout/Resilience;

- Edward R. Gaines, III, JD, CCP; Alison Haddock, MD, FACEP and Nathan R. Schlicher, MD, JD, FACEP discussing "Out-of-Network/Balance Billing - Where Are We? A Federal/State Update;"
- Eric Ketcham, MD, FACEP and Mark S. Rosenberg, DO, MBA, FACEP on Creating Solutions to the Opioid Crisis; and much more!

More than 170 legislator meetings have already been scheduled for attendees on Tuesday, March 14 for ACEP's Lobby Day, many with House and Senate leaders and members of key healthcare committees. Before heading to Capitol Hill for ACEP's Lobby Day, attendees will receive advocacy training and policy briefings from ACEP leaders and the Washington DC staff, who will also discuss the importance of physician involvement in policy making and the political process.

Wednesday, March 15 will be devoted to the Leadership Summit where you can hear from some of the most influential members of your specialty while earning CME credit. Additional information and registration details for the LAC17 are available on the [ACEP Website](#).

Congressional Dine-Arounds during LAC

NEMPAC will again be hosting Congressional Dine-Arounds for key members of congress during the LAC. Join you emergency physician colleagues and some of the most influential lawmakers while dining or attending social events in our nation's capital. A minimum donation to the Member of Congress' campaign is suggested for participation, which will be combined with the support provided by NEMPAC.

All events for the following legislators will take place on Tuesday, March 14: Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT), Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD), Rep. Greg Walden (R-OR), Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-OH), Rep. Mike Burgess (R-TX) and emergency physician Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA).

If you have any questions about these events or wish to RSVP, please contact Jeanne Slade, ACEP Director of Political Affairs, at (202) 728-0610, ext. 3013 or jslade@acep.org.

ACEP members' support of NEMPAC makes events like these possible. [Click here](#) with your ACEP login credentials to donate to NEMPAC and make our voice even stronger!



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