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House Passes EMSC Reauthorization

On Wednesday, the House approved the ACEP-supported “Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Program Reauthorization Act of 2019” (H.R. 776) by voice vote. This program administered by HHS’ Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) helps ensure emergency departments and ambulances have the equipment, supplies, and medications necessary to treat children and helps develop pediatric treatment protocols. The funding that EMSC provides each state goes toward strengthening hospital and pre-hospital services, training first responders, and improving systems to provide more efficient and effective pediatric emergency medical care. The Senate HELP Committee approved its version of the bill (S. 1173) on July 9.

Senate Approves 911 Victim Fund

On Tuesday, the Senate approved, by a vote of 97 to 2, the re-authorization of the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund. This bill, formally known as the “Never Forget the Heroes: James Zadroga, Ray Pfeifer, and Luis Alvarez Permanent Authorization of the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund Act” (H.R. 1327), would extend the compensation program through 2092. Without congressional action, the fund would have expired by 2020. The bill was passed in the House earlier this month by a vote of 402 to 12 and is now headed to President Trump for his signature into law.

August Advocacy on Out of Network Billing Solutions

The House of Representatives began their August District Work Period on Thursday evening and the Senate is scheduled to do the same next week. Both chambers are expected to continue working on solutions on surprise billing over the month of August and the issue will be a high priority when Congress returns in September. The August District Work Period is an opportunity for ACEP members to continue our strong advocacy to promote a balanced solution that takes patients out of the middle and ensures a fair process. Please be on the lookout for new action alerts and access to an advocacy toolkit to help bolster your outreach to your legislators during August.

To learn more about how you can advocate at home on the surprise billing issue during the Congressional recess in August, please [click here to register](#) for our upcoming “ACEP Townhall: Advocating on Surprise Billing in the August Recess” on Aug 5, 2019 at 1:00 PM Eastern Time.

Regs & Eggs: Regulatory Affairs Blog

ACEP has started a new blog focused on federal regulatory affairs, “[Regs & Eggs.](#)” Every Thursday morning, while you’re eating your breakfast, ACEP’s Director of Regulatory Affairs, Jeffrey Davis, will provide weekly updates on the major federal regulations impacting emergency medicine.

ACEP developed an a Medicare alternative payment model (APM) called the Acute Unscheduled Care Model (AUCM). As we wait for the “Awesome” AUCM model to be implemented by Medicare, ACEP is

kicking off an initiative to support participation in emergency medicine-focused APMs for Medicaid and private payers. Check out this week's [Regs & Eggs blog](#) to learn more!



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