



National Association of EMS Physicians®

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BIPARTISAN BILL PREVENTING DELAYED EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE SIGNED INTO LAW EMS Physicians Applaud the Signing of the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act

WASHINGTON, DC (November 20, 2017) – The National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) applauds the signing into law of the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act (H.R. 304), which unanimously passed the House of Representatives in January and the Senate in October. The bill reestablishes the ability of emergency medical care providers, such as paramedics, to administer certain life-saving medications to critical patients without unnecessary delay, which was put in question by recent U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) regulatory deliberations. It also strengthens DEA oversight of emergency medical services (EMS).

A patient-centered group composed of nearly 2,000 highly-trained emergency medical care providers, NAEMSP led the industry response to EMS's exclusion from the ability to administer certain medications under yet-unenforced measures in the Controlled Substances Act (CSA).

“Every year, millions of Americans unexpectedly find themselves in a medical crisis and rely on the speed, bravery, and expertise of emergency out-of-hospital medical care providers,” said Dr. Brent Myers, President of NAEMSP. *“This legislation ensures that EMS will be able to provide the highest quality of care to patients in their time of need. We are deeply grateful for the leadership of Representatives Richard Hudson (R-NC) and G.K. Butterfield (D-NC) and Senators Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA) and Michael Bennet (D-CO).”*

NAEMSP worked directly with the DEA once the federal agency stated intentions to criminalize the use of standing orders, which would have made it illegal for EMS providers to dispense controlled medications – including treatments for life-threatening allergic reactions and severe pain – in a timely manner. Specifically, the regulations would require emergency care providers, such as EMTs and paramedics, to delay administering certain medications to patients in a medical crisis until they ascertained approval from an off-site physician medical director. NAEMSP then coordinated and worked closely with bipartisan allies in Congress to help inform and advance the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act, which also establishes a framework to enable the DEA to oversee EMS consistently across the nation and also clarifies uniform protocols for EMS.

“This life-saving legislation is the product of three years of hard work and patient determination from NAEMSP members, our partners the American College of Emergency Physicians and National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, and our bipartisan allies in Congress,” said Dr. Ritu Sahni, Chair of NAEMSP's Advocacy Committee. *“We are proud to have led this charge and we will continue to collaborate with the healthcare community and advocate for our patients and medical care providers across the nation.”*

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About the National Association of Emergency Services Physicians (NAEMSP)

The National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) is an organization of physicians and other out-of-hospital emergency medical care professionals partnering to provide leadership and foster excellence in the subspecialty of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) medicine. NAEMSP also publishes the peer-reviewed and top-ranked *Prehospital Emergency Care* journal, as well as a blog and podcast on breaking issues and developments in the EMS field.



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