



# NASEMSO Government Information Committee

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## MEETING RECORD

**March 15, 2016**  
3:00 PM EDT

**Attending:** Jim DeTienne (MT), Kyle Thornton (NM), Gary Brown (VA), Dale Adkerson (OK), Keith Wages (GA), Donnie Woodyard (LA), Peter Taillac (UT), Rich Wisnewski (SC), Ritu Sahni (NAEMSP), Dia Gainor (NASEMSO), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)

**Call to Order / Call Roll / Approve Agenda** – Jim DeTienne called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM EDT.

**Review and Approve Meeting Minutes** – The January 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting Record was approved as submitted.

**HR 4365, Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2016** (*For more information, see [NASEMSO GIC website](#)*) – Dr. Ritu Sahni said the bill (which would allow EMS to administer controlled substances medication in the field by standing order) now has 24 co-sponsors, including Rep. Sensenbrenner (WI) who is Vice Chair of Judiciary. When the bill was introduced in January, it was immediately referred to the two committees that have jurisdiction over the DEA – Judiciary (Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations) and Energy & Commerce (Subcommittee on Health). Senator Grassley, Judiciary Committee Chair, has asked NAEMSP to obtain a republican co-sponsor from the Judiciary subcommittee that will hear the bill. Jim commented that he understands that the bill has a good chance of passing.

**HR 3379, the Airplane KiTS Act, and Senate companion (S. 2536)** (*see [NASEMSO GIC website](#)*) – Jim explained these companion bills would require the FAA to initiate rulemaking to update the contents of emergency medical kits on airplanes to ensure they have appropriate medications and equipment for children. This legislation has been supported heavily by the American Academy of Pediatrics as well as emergency physicians.

**HR 3225 Save Rural Hospitals Act** (*[NASEMSO GIC website](#)*) – Rich Wisnewski (SC) said the bill had been brought to the attention of the Trauma Managers Council due to concerns with section 4 that would impact hospitals. Although there are a number of cosponsors, the bill is not expected to go anywhere. They are just watching it for now. There is some vague language dealing with EMS.

**CDC Gun Research Sign-on letter** (due 3/16 – see attached) - Jim DeTienne referred members to the letter requesting support for the CDC to conduct research on gun violence. Jim said he was not comfortable with the Committee recommending whether NASEMSO

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should be added as a signator and asked Mary to submit the letter to the Executive Committee for a decision.

**Friends of MCH Sign-on letter (due 3/16)** – Jim noted the Title V Maternal Child Health block grant does not impact EMS directly. Kyle Thornton speculated this block grant could possibly impact Community Paramedicine. The question is whether we automatically sign to support all public health related letters that come our way. Mary commented that because NAEMSO is a member of the ASTHO Affiliates we receive notices requesting support for the various public health initiatives. Ritu commented that the MCH Block Grant does not impact EMSC funding. Jim asked Mary to send this letter to the Executive Committee also.

**EMS on the Hill Day, April 19-20 - [NAEMT ems on hill day](#)** NAEMT is prioritizing four EMS-related bills in the current session, which are available on their website under Legislative Priorities. Ritu said that NAEMSP is conducting a government relations academy on the morning of April 19 for its members. Dia is attending the transformation summit on April 19. Ritu said that NAEMT did not renew its contract with Holland and Knight, the firm that was responsible for leading the effort on the EMS Field Bill. It seems that future efforts may focus on selected parts of the Field Bill to introduce separately in the next Congress.

**State Legislation Update (REPLICA and more)** – Dia reported that in addition to Virginia, where REPLICA was recently enacted, the legislative assemblies of Utah and Idaho have forwarded the bill to their Governors for signature. Kansas is also getting good traction on the bill. NASEMSO is in final negotiations with the NREMT regarding a “champion” for REPLICA. In some states, IAFF leadership has opposed the bill, but this is not consistent in all states.

**EMS Scope of Practice Model** – Dia reported the NEMSAC Chair and Vice Chair have asked if NHTSA should immediately change the National EMS Scope of Practice Model to allow the administration of naloxone by all four levels of EMS personnel. Dia questioned the need to immediately change the Scope of Practice Model for naloxone when the document is already due for update.

**Air Medical balance billing** has become a major issue in Montana, according to Jim. The interim legislative committee has been very concerned and wants to react in spite of the fact they have been advised that the Airline Deregulation Act precludes states from regulating fees charged by air medical services. North Dakota tried this and has been sued. Dia is pursuing a discussion with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, because the state insurance commissioners have been receiving complaints from consumers about the charges above what their insurance will pay. Rich Wisnewski said

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there is an initiative in South Carolina to make public the fee schedule for helicopter agencies.

The Community EMT ballot initiative in Montana is intended to train EMTs to respond to vets in crisis, which is in response to the high suicide rate in EMS. Jim clarified this is not an initiative from his office, but was started by an individual. While the intent may be good, it is not well written.

Jim pointed out that there will be a State Legislative Roundtable at the Spring Meeting next month in Bethesda, where members will be able to discuss legislative initiatives in their respective states.

**NASEMSO Liaisons** (see attached) – Jim referred to the recently updated NASEMSO Liaison list sent to committee members with the meeting materials. Mary said that NASEMSO staff members have been working to keep the list current.

**Adjourn/Next Meeting** - The meeting adjourned at 4:04 PM EDT. The next meeting will be May 17.