



# NASEMSO Government Information Committee

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## MEETING RECORD

**January 17, 2017**  
4:00 PM EST

**Attending** – Kyle Thornton (NM), Dr. Ritu Sahni (NAEMSP), Keith Wages (GA), Sue Prentiss (NASEMSO), Alisa Williams (MS), Carole Mays (MD), Carolina Roberts Santana (RI), Leslee Stein-Spencer (NASEMSO), Andy Gienapp (WY), Dr. Harry Sibold (MT), Jim DeTienne (MT), Joe House (KS), Joe Ferrell (NASEMSO), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO), Paul Patrick (UT)

**Call to Order / Call Roll / Approve Agenda** – Kyle Thornton called the meeting to order at 4:07 PM EST, as Paul Patrick indicated he would be joining the meeting late.

**Review and Approve Meeting Minutes** – The November 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting record was approved as presented.

**HR 304, Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017** – Dr. Ritu Sahni explained that the 2016 version of the bill did not pass although it had been expected to be placed on the consent calendar in late December. The House author re-introduced the bill in the new congressional session based on the last version of the bill that had passed the House. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, HR 304 passed with unanimous consent in the U.S. House and was referred to the Senate. They do not anticipate a hearing in the Senate as there is opposition. Fundamentally the bill allows controlled substances to be given in the field by EMS per standing order. There are a few other items in the bill, such as allowing sharing of controlled substances in the case of a shortage. (*For more information, see [NASEMSO GIC website](#)*). Committee members thanked Dr. Sahni for NAEMSP's work on this important piece of legislation and his willingness to participate in in this committee and keep members informed.

Dr. Sahni said he hopes to see many of NASEMSO members at the NAEMSP Meeting in New Orleans. He will no longer be on the NAEMSP Board but will continue as NAEMSP Advocacy Chair.

**Domestic Preparedness Issues Paper** (see attached) – Leslee Stein-Spencer explained that NASEMSO is part of the National Homeland Security Consortium, which is comprised of 22 national organizations. The consortium prepares a consensus white paper when the Presidential administration changes. Many of the member organizations also prepare an issues

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paper identifying their own priorities. The NASEMSO issues paper draft is presented to this committee for its recommendation to the NASEMSO Board. Leslee reviewed the draft and noted that dedicated funding to EMS is included as a priority because EMS receives less than 10% of the domestic preparedness funding awarded to the states. Leslee asked members to submit any comments to her.

**Prevention and Public Health Fund** (see attached Memo form ASTHO) – Kyle Thornton explained that what is commonly referred to as the Preventive Health Block Grant, is under threat of not being funded by Congress (it is part of the Affordable Care Act). His state EMS office is partially funded by these dollars, as are several other state EMS offices. He noted that the fund is often threatened with elimination, but has usually survived. He is not sure about its chances this year.

**State Legislation Roundtable (REPLICA and more)** – Sue Prentiss reported that a new REPLICA webpage has been created on the NASEMSO website at <http://www.emsreplica.org/>. Four states have filed bills so far this year (MO, OR, MS, WY). Andy Gienapp (WY) said he attended the first committee hearing last night, and he found the discussion interesting. The greatest concern was about the projected cost and the bill was referred to the Appropriations Committee. Sue believes that the cost to the state will be very small (possibly limited to paying for travel to the yearly meeting) and she will provide this information for the fiscal note. Several other states are looking possible for having bills introduced this year (AL, MN, GA, NM, AR, MI).

**Air Medical Balance Billing Update** – Jim DeTienne reported that Montana's interim legislative committee came forward with two bills to address this issue in Montana. One bill, referred to the Hold Harmless bill, provides for voluntary arbitration and litigation if efforts to resolve the unpaid portion of the bill are not successful, while the patient is held harmless. The proponents of the bill believe it would pass ADA scrutiny because the arbitration is voluntary. Jim believes the Governor is opposed because he believes they will end up in federal court should the bill pass.

Kyle reported that a court in Texas ruled that a Workers Comp-paid air medical bill could not be balance billed.

Paul Patrick added that a group in Utah wants to go forward in asking Congress to remove air ambulances from the federal deregulation Act.

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**Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 4:51 PM EST. It was suggested that the Committee meet at the same time in the future.

**Next Meeting** – March 21, 2017

*The meeting record was respectfully prepared by NASEMSO Program Manager Mary Hedges.*