



NASEMSO Government Information Committee

MEETING RECORD

May 17, 2016
3:00 PM EDT

Attending – Jim DeTienne, Chair (MT), Kyle Thornton (NM), Joe Schmider (TX), Gary Brown (VA), Rich Wisnewski (SC), Ritu Sahni (NAEMSP), Dale Adkerson (OK), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)

Call to Order / Call Roll / Approve Agenda – Jim DeTienne called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM EDT.

Review and Approve Meeting Minutes – The March meeting record was approved without changes. Kyle thanked Mary for the helpful meeting summaries. Jim suggested sending the draft version of the meeting record to the state directors list to generate interest in joining the Committee meetings and to update them on the discussions.

HR 4365, Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2016 – Dr. Ritu Sahni announced that the Senate companion bill, S 2932, was introduced yesterday by Senator Cassidy (LA). The Senator wanted to tweak the language in order to allow the bill to go to the Senate Health Committee, which would be more friendly to the bill than the Senate Judiciary Committee. The text is not yet available, but the intent of the bill remains the same. The NFL has a bill in the House that would allow their team physicians to cross state lines with controlled substances. HR 4365 was scheduled to be heard in House Judiciary along with the NFL bill, which did not seem to be in our best interest, so HR 4365 was pulled from hearing. They are trying to get the bill out of Judiciary. Ritu said the House, Energy and Commerce Committee will likely hear the bill in June. There are now 77 cosponsors. *(For more information, see [NASEMSO GIC website](#))*

H.R.1818 and SR 453 - Veteran Emergency Medical Technician Support Act of 2015 (see <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1818/text>) Jim noted that the House bill passed on May 12. The bill would create pilots to streamline the transition of veteran EMTs to civilian EMTs. Joe Schmider commented that he did not see anything in the bill that would help move this effort forward, as states have been working on this for some time. Kyle said that New Mexico initiated its program and it would be beneficial to receive funding, as provided in the bill, to accomplish this. Jim suggested inviting Peg Trimble to join the next meeting to update members on the NASEMSO Veterans to Civilian EMS Transition Project.

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FAA Reauthorization – Jim said that Montana is one of the states struggling with the exorbitant amounts that some air ambulances are billing patients after their insurance has paid the bill. Senator Tester (D-MT) and Senator Hoeven (R-ND) testified in support of an amendment to the FAA Reauthorization bill to address the problem, but were unsuccessful.

Joe said they are considering (preliminary discussion stage) of no longer licensing air ambulances in Texas and having the billing complaints forwarded to the FAA and the medical complaints to the State Medical Board. He said that air medical transports make up less than 1% of call volume in Texas but disproportionately consume his time. Kyle pointed out concern with losing oversight of the EMS providers who work air ambulances. Jim said that a lack of transparency contributes to the problem with insurance companies not paying enough and air ambulance shopping by hospitals.

NASEMSO Signs onto DSRC Coalition Letter to President to preserve life-saving Dedicated Short Range Communication (DSRC) technology and ensure the protection of the existing Fixed Satellite Service operations in the 5.9 GHz band. Jim said that Kevin McGinnis was responsible for obtaining the support of other EMS organizations to sign on to the letter requesting the President's support. Mary added that the intent is to ensure that the spectrum used by new smart car technology, which holds a very promising future for saving lives, is not overtaken by those wanting it for Wi-Fi use. For more info, see [NASEMSO website](http://www.itsa.org/advocacy/safety-and-connected-vehicles-) and <http://www.itsa.org/advocacy/safety-and-connected-vehicles->

State Legislation Update (REPLICA and more) – Jim said there are now seven states that have enacted the REPLICA language into law. The NREMT is financing a position with ASMI for hiring someone to serve as a REPLICA champion. This person would help other states who are considering passing REPLICA and would help to set up the REPLICA commission. Donnie Woodyard was hired by the NREMT to fill its new REPLICA position. The states that have passed it include CO, TX, VA, ID, UT, TN, KS. Kyle said it will hopefully be included in the NM Governor's initiative for next year. Dale Adkerson said he is hopeful that Oklahoma can get a bill enacted next year.

Jim mentioned the Save the Rural Hospitals Act (H.R. 3225) which was discussed at the last meeting. Rich Wisnewski added that there have been a few additional sponsors added to the bill, but he understands that those following it in rural health do not think it is going anywhere.



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There is opposition from some of the state trauma programs because of some of the bill's language.

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 3:47 PM EDT. **Next Meeting** – July 20

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