



NASEMSO Government Information Committee

MEETING RECORD

March 21, 2017
3:00 PM EDT

Attending – Paul Patrick (Chair), Keith Wages (GA), Kyle Thornton (NM), Carolina Roberts-Santana (RI), Dale Adkerson (OK), Richard Wisnewski (SC), Dr. Harry Sibold (MT), Donna Tidwell (TN), Joe Ferrell (NASEMSO), Mary Hedges (NASEMSO)

Call to Order / Call Roll / Approve Agenda – Paul Patrick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM EDT.

Review and Approve Meeting Minutes – The January 17th Meeting Record was approved as submitted.

HR 304, Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017 – (*For more information, see [NASEMSO GIC website](#)*) – Dr. Harry Sibold said there is no new information on this bill since the last meeting. He explained that although the bill did not pass during the lame duck session in December 2016, they managed to get it introduced and passed in the House in January at the start of the new congressional session. He understands that it is just a matter of time that the Senate moves the bill and it is signed by the President. Although we may not hear much, the bill is moving behind the scenes.

HR 880 Mission Zero Act – (*see [NASEMSO GIC website](#)*) Rich Wisnewski explained that this bill is intended to allow military medical personnel to practice in hospitals to maintain their skills. The hospital would receive funding for each military healthcare provider it employs. This is one piece of what was recommended in the NASEM report. Donna asked if they would practice under their federal license and Rich thought they would.

Prevention and Public Health Fund - Kyle Thornton said that his state EMS office receives about \$380,000 per year from the Preventive Health Block Grant, now known as the Prevention and Public Health Fund. A number of state EMS offices receive a portion of their budget from the federal fund. This funding is part of the ACA which is cause for concern, but he believes they will receive the funding this year because they expect the federal budget to be continued at last year's level through a Continuing Resolution. The fund has been zeroed out in past years in the president's budget but has always managed to survive.

03/21/17

GIC Meeting Record



NASEMSO Government Information Committee

MEETING RECORD

NAEMSP Legislative Agenda - Dr. Ritu Sahni was unable to join the call to report.

State Legislation Roundtable (REPLICA and more) – Kyle reported that REPLICA was signed into law by the Governor in Mississippi, making that state the ninth state. Keith Wages said that REPLICA passed the House in Georgia and they are now waiting for the Senate. Kyle said the legislative session ended in New Mexico before their REPLICA bill could pass, even though it passed at the committee level. The trial lawyers opposed it due to the immunity provision. Alabama, Arkansas, Nevada, Minnesota and West Virginia have REPLICA bills in their legislatures.

Air Medical Balance Billing - Paul Patrick reported that Montana is actively pushing legislation responding to the balance billing issue for air medical. He understands a bill passed that would allow the state to regulate billing. Utah passed legislation establishing an air ambulance committee for two years, which will look at air medical rates in the all-payer database. The committee will be chaired by Dr. Peter Taillac, the state EMS medical director. The intent is to determine an average cost of an air ambulance bill. Kyle said that New Mexico put forth a bill which proposed that patients would be held harmless if they were unable to pay the balance bill from an air ambulance transport. He does not know if the bill passed, as he is still researching what bills passed when the session recently ended. Mary Hedges reported that she discussed the issue recently with Robert Byrd of Air Medical Holdings, and he said the industry is not going to challenge the Montana bill. Paul suggested the air ambulance balance billing be a standing agenda item.

Community Paramedicine- Donna reported they have a community paramedicine bill that is likely to pass in Tennessee this legislative session, and they will begin to write rules. Paul added that Utah also had a community paramedicine bill pass; the bill also changed EMS certification to EMS licensure.

Adjourn Meeting adjourned at 3:41 PM EDT.

Next Meeting – May 16, 2017

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

03/21/17

GIC Meeting Record