

Dear NAEMT Members:

I am very pleased to report to you that our first annual EMS on the Hill Day was a great success. Most likely, you've been hearing the national buzz about this event, held earlier this week in Washington, D.C., on May 3-4 and hosted by NAEMT.



Members of NAEMT's Board of Directors meet with FEMA's Deputy Administrator Richard Serino (third from back left)

This event, which will be held annually, was the EMS community's first coordinated effort to visit congressional leaders and staff on Capitol Hill. Our first Hill Day included representation from all sectors of the EMS community, with 120 EMS professionals from 40 states and Puerto Rico advocating to more than 160 U.S. Senators and House Representatives.

Issues they addressed with representatives included:

The Medicare Ambulance Access



The Pennsylvania delegation meets with Sen. Robert Casey areas and add a bonus payment for transports originating in super rural areas.

Preservation Act of 2009 (S. 1066, H.R. 2443) - This would provide permanent Medicare reimbursement relief for ambulance services consistent with the 1997 GAO report that determined that they are paid significantly below cost. It would provide a permanent 6 percent increase for ambulance transports originating in urban or rural

The Dale Long Emergency Medical Service Providers Protection Act (S. 1353) and the **Nongovernmental Emergency Responder Family Protection Act (H.R. 2485)** - Both bills would extend the Public Safety Officers' Benefits (PSOB) program - which currently only apply to those employed by a federal, state or local government entity - to EMS professionals employed by private, non-profit EMS agencies.

Field EMS legislation - Currently under development, this would implement a cohesive strategy to strengthen the development of our nation's field EMS at the federal, state and local levels. The bill, which is expected to be introduced this summer, will promote patient-centered, medically directed, evidence-based, cost-

effective and safe field EMS service throughout the United States to enhance 24/7 readiness, catastrophic preparedness and continual innovation in quality and capability for the betterment of patients.

My special thanks to all those NAEMT members who participated. For those of you who were not able to participate this year, we hope you will consider doing so in 2011.

Advocacy is not an activity for just the few of us to undertake. It must be an ongoing commitment that all of us in EMS make to ensure that our voices are heard at the federal level.

Please join us in our national advocacy efforts for the betterment of all EMS professionals and our patients. Look for information in the near future on dates for EMS on the Hill Day in 2011.

Sincerely,

Patrick F. Moore

President, NAEMT



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