

CHAIR, NEMPAC BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Welcome to the second edition of the NEMPAC Pulse. So much has happened since our first newsletter! In May, we welcomed more than 500 ACEP members to Washington, DC for LAC18 – one of our highest attended Leadership and Advocacy Conferences to date. Nearly one-third of the attendees participated in NEMPAC sponsored dine-around events and general fundraising receptions on Capitol Hill for 23 members of Congress, and over 250 NEMPAC donors attended the NEMPAC VIP Reception at the International Spy Museum.

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Dr. Marilyn Heine
CLICK HERE TO READ MORE



Click here for roster and contact information.



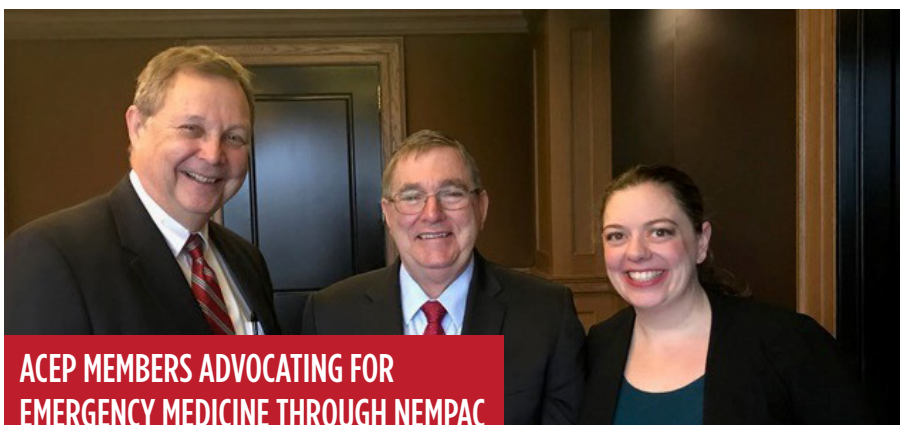
Click here for an update on ACEP's legislative priorities and successes.



[Click here](#) to read more about candidates that receive NEMPAC support.



Dr. Bryn DeKosky
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Learn more about NEMPAC



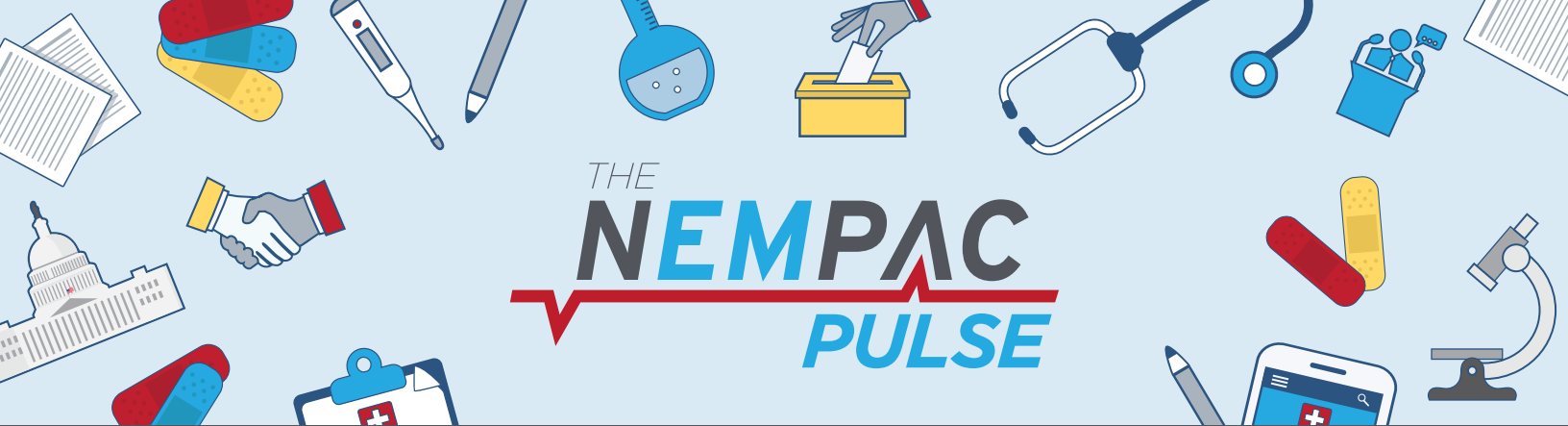
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Support NEMPAC today



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THE NEMPAC PULSE

ISSUE 2 | AUGUST 2018

A LETTER FROM DR. JACOBY

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The mid-term elections are around the corner and majority control of the House and the Senate is in play. Our NEMPAC Board has been keenly focused on identifying the best candidates for emergency medicine and ensuring that NEMPAC is fully funded and ready to support those candidates. We remain true to the bipartisan nature of the ACEP membership and we are careful to consider many factors when determining which candidates deserve NEMPAC support. Now more than ever, NEMPAC needs your help to keep the voice of emergency medicine strong in DC!

NEMPAC depends on loyal, committed PAC contributors like you to make a difference. Every dollar raised goes directly to candidates who have been carefully vetted by our NEMPAC Board and staff – and every dollar brings another opportunity to educate candidates and expand the political footprint of emergency medicine.

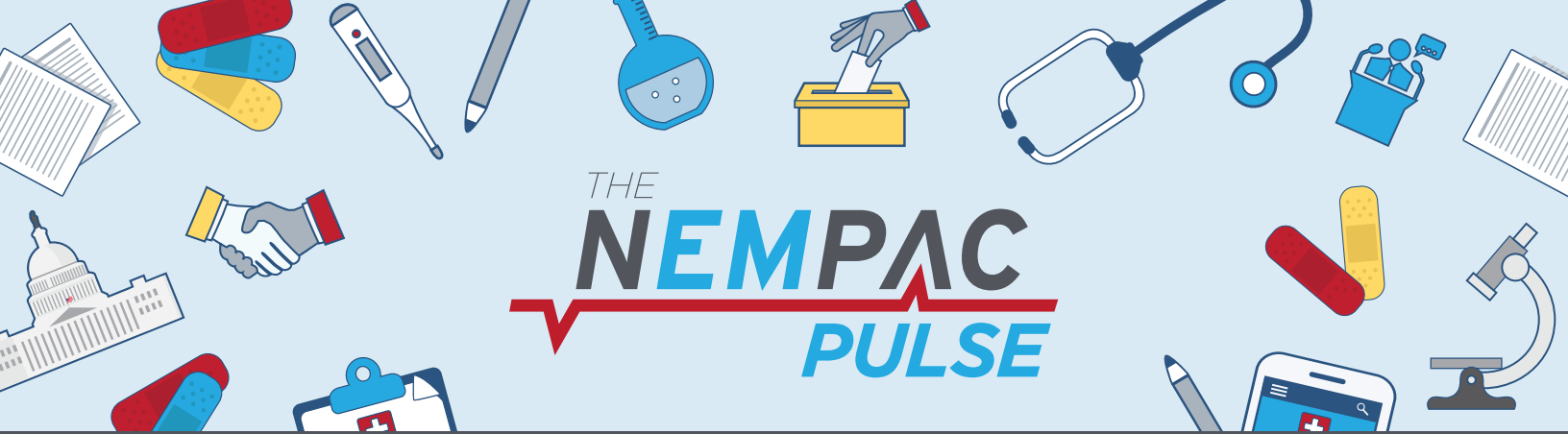
SO HOW CAN YOU HELP?



In honor of ACEP's 50th anniversary, we have exclusive events planned at ACEP18 in San Diego for our NEMPAC donors including invite-only receptions for ACEP Members and Resident Members. Be on the look-out for more information on these events and how you can participate and encourage your colleagues to join. In addition, ACEP Members who contribute \$500 or more and ACEP Resident Members who contribute \$50 or more by September 30 will be invited to participate in a special midterm election tele-town hall on October 10 with special guest, Nathan Gonzales, Editor and Publisher of *Inside Elections*.

[Click here](#) to make your NEMPAC contribution. Please note: The NEMPAC Pulse is a donor-exclusive benefit, and this will be the last edition offered to all ACEP members. To continue receiving this exclusive update, be sure to support NEMPAC today.

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NEMPAC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Members of the NEMPAC Board of Trustees are appointed by the ACEP President-Elect. The Board approves a federal candidate budget for each election cycle and supports NEMPAC's annual fundraising campaign. The Board's evaluation criteria focus on a candidate's support of ACEP's key legislative issues, committee assignments, leadership position and the competitiveness of the candidate's race. In addition, ACEP staff consults with local ACEP members and chapter representatives to identify and evaluate open seat and challenger candidates before recommending support to the NEMPAC Board of Trustees.

To reach the NEMPAC Board of Trustees or staff, please contact jslade@acep.org or 202-370-9295.

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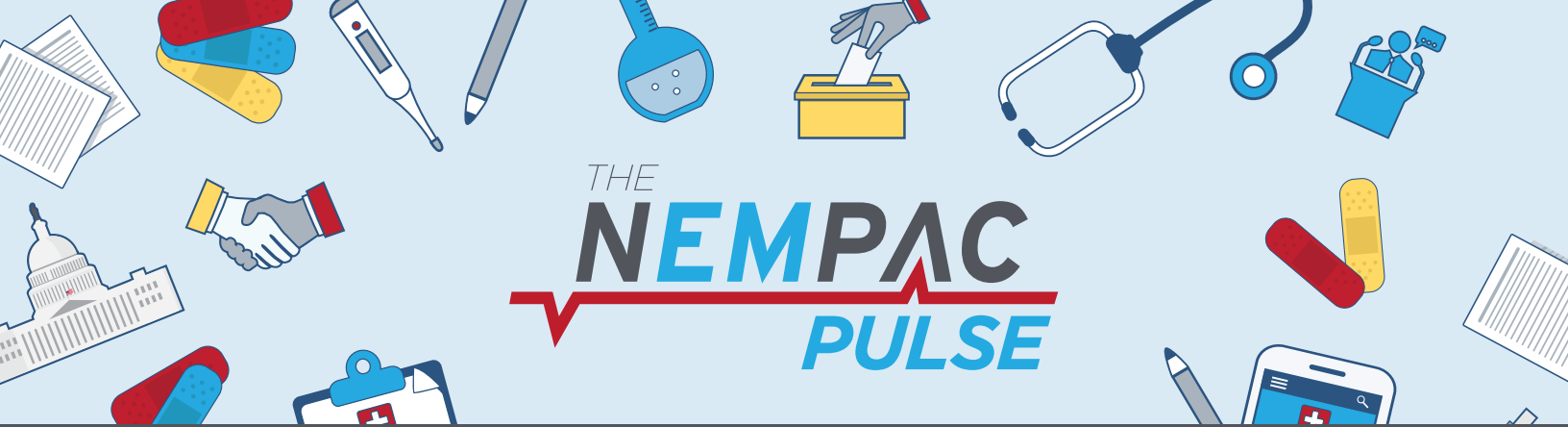
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PAC STAR OF THE QUARTER

Dr. Marilyn Heine



ON THE MOVE WITH: Marilyn J. Heine, MD, FACEP, is an emergency physician who practices in southeast Pennsylvania.

WHAT MOVING MEDICINE MEANS TO ME: Policymakers increasingly impact our practice of medicine. I am passionate that physicians have a vital role to advocate for our patients and our profession—not only at the bedside, but also in the “halls of our legislature”—to educate lawmakers on issues we face and help shape legislation that affects our patients and our profession.

To be effective advocates, each of us should focus on the 3 R's: build a relationship with our legislators, keep our issue on the legislator's radar and make the issue real. Put a face on the issue with a patient vignette. Our professional lobbyists can help explain policy, but only we can tell the relevant story of the patient we “saw last Tuesday.”

HOW I MOVE MEDICINE: Over the last 25 years, I have focused on communication, grassroots advocacy and involvement in organized medicine. Initiatives included calls to galvanize colleagues to act, letters to the editor and op-eds published in local and national papers, and social media. I chair the physicians' advisory board for our congressman, where I bring together colleagues of different specialties, and have led physician coalitions for pro-physician state and federal candidates of both major political parties. ACEP provides superb advocacy training and valuable resources in these endeavors.

I met with President George W. Bush twice to discuss physician priorities and hosted practice site visits for members of Congress which incentivized their action on key measures. I represented ACEP in testimony before Congress on the Medicare quality program and at a Capitol Hill press conference on medical liability reform. One congressman once said, with a smile, “We know about your tenacity. We guard our ankles when you call.”

Several times I was able to generate en masse grassroots input. This included prompting our congressman to be instrumental in the passage of antitrust reform in the U.S. House; and hundreds of letters to Congress to improve the Medicare program. I coordinated a letter, authored by our congressman and signed by our bipartisan delegation, which helped spur U.S. House leaders to promote important Medicare reform. Political engagement contributed to wins for “friends of medicine” in several close elections.

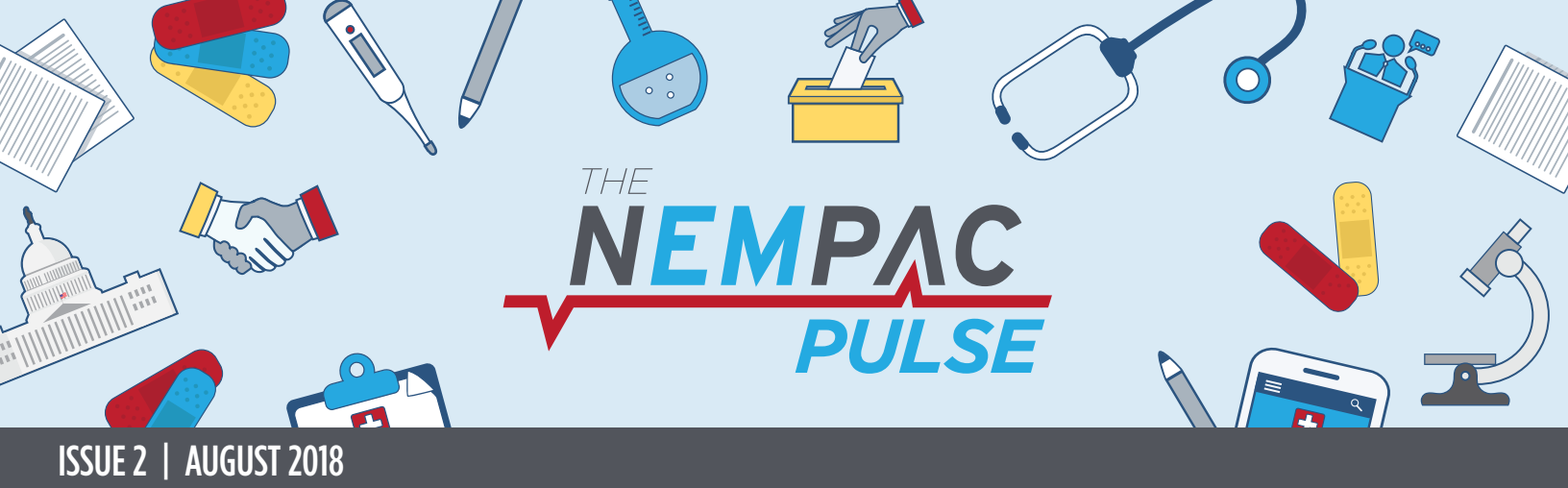
CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Once I invited a group of senior women to accompany a busload of physicians to our state capitol to lobby during a medical liability crisis. The women had seen physicians close or curtail practice due to the liability climate. When our state senator saw “the ladies in sneakers” enter his office as advocates, he was astounded and even more motivated to successfully advance medical liability reform.

ACEP was integral to many rewarding experiences for which I am honored to have received the 911 Award twice, the Council Meritorious Service Award, and the Colin C. Rorrie, Jr, PhD Award for Excellence in Health Policy.

ADVICE I'D GIVE TO THOSE INTERESTED IN PURSUING A CAREER IN MEDICINE: Always seek to do what is best for the patient. With that as your guidepost, you help ensure that your patient will have the best chance for an optimal outcome.

ASPECT OF MY WORK THAT MEANS THE MOST: My most meaningful experiences are bonds with patients: opportunities to develop rapport, educate patients about their medical conditions, recognize their concerns, engage them in the treatment decision-making, and to be their champion in medical care.

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

What We Accomplished:

Drug Shortage Crisis: Congress and the FDA Respond

A big win for patients on the issue of drug shortages and how emergency physicians made it happen:

During the Capitol Hill visits at the Leadership and Advocacy Conference 2018, and later responding to ACEP Action Alerts back home - ACEP members asked lawmakers to sign the ACEP-developed bipartisan letter, led by Reps. Brett Guthrie (R-KY) and Mike Doyle (D-PA) and Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Chris Murphy (D-CT), urging the FDA to convene a task force to address ongoing, persistent drug shortages affecting emergency medicine and other specialties. The bipartisan letter was signed by 107 members of the House and 31 Senators and was clearly effective. In early July, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, MD, announced the creation of a new Drug Shortages Task Force charged with identifying and addressing the root causes of drug shortages affecting the health care system. A special thank you to LAC18 attendees and 911 Network members whose dedicated advocacy efforts are making a difference.

For more information about the ACEP 911 Network, go to www.acepadvocacy.org.

ACEP Legislation to Address the Opioid Crisis Passes the House of Representatives

In late June, the House of Representatives wrapped up its work on bills addressing the opioid epidemic –the culmination of months of legislative hearings and markups in several different committees.

ACEP worked to introduce two bills that expand ways for emergency medicine to address the opioid crisis through both prevention and treatment. The bills were the focus of our Hill visits during the LAC18 in Washington, DC. These efforts, combined with the ongoing work of our ACEP DC office, helped bring this legislation across the finish line in the House of Representatives.

The Alternatives to Opioids (ALTO) in the Emergency Department Act

(H.R. 5197 – Introduced by Rep. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ) and Rep. David McKinley (R-WV); S. 2516 – Introduced by Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Sen. Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV).

- Provides grants to help emergency departments and hospitals implement non-opioid, evidence-based pain management protocols, based on the successful and proven ALTO program developed at St. Joseph’s in Paterson, New Jersey.
- The ALTO program at St. Joseph’s Hospital saw opioid prescriptions drop by 82 percent over two years. These results were recently replicated at 10 hospitals in Colorado, where hospital systems noted a 36 percent drop in opioid prescriptions in the first six months of the program.

The Preventing Overdoses While in Emergency Rooms (POWER) Act

(H.R. 5176 – Introduced by Rep. David McKinley (R-WV) and Rep. Mike Doyle (D-PA); S. 2610 – Introduced by Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT)

- Provides grants to establish policies and procedures for initiating Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) in the emergency department and to develop best practices to provide a “warm handoff” to appropriate community resources and providers to keep patients engaged in treatment. MAT is a proven medical treatment that can relieve withdrawal symptoms and psychological cravings of opioid use disorder.
- Studies show success for this model – after one month, 78 percent of patients remained in addiction treatment programs with ED-initiated MAT.

Among the opioid bills successfully passed on the House floor was ACEP-supported legislation to align a federal law (42 CFR Part 2) regarding the sharing of substance use disorder treatment records with HIPAA. This legislation ensures that physicians have appropriate access to patient records and guarantees strong privacy protections for patients.

The focus now moves to the Senate where the specifics on the path forward remain uncertain.

Gun Violence and Injury Prevention

ACEP recently joined with 80 national medical, public health, and research organizations to send a joint letter to House and Senate leaders asking for \$50 million in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to conduct public health research on firearms injury prevention.

What We Are Working On:

House Committee Advances Emergency Preparedness Bill

In mid-July, the House Energy and Commerce Committee approved the ACEP-supported “Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act” (H.R. 6378) by voice vote. This marked the culmination of several months of negotiations between lawmakers, ACEP, and other stakeholders on how best to reauthorize the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA) and the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR).

Several key provisions promoted by ACEP, including those advocated for by ACEP members during the 2018 Leadership and Advocacy Conference, were included in the bill, such as an emphasis on regionalized emergency preparedness and response systems, inclusion of the MISSION ZERO Act’s provisions to facilitate the use of military trauma teams in civilian trauma centers, and the addition of Good Samaritan liability protections for health care professionals who volunteer during federally-declared disasters.

In addition, H.R. 6378 contains many other measures that are important to emergency medicine, including National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) improvements, expanded public health surveillance, a study on Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) readiness capabilities, and federal funding program enhancements, among others.

The full House of Representatives is expected to consider and approve the bill in the near future.

The Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions (HELP) Committee approved its version of the emergency preparedness legislation (S. 2852) on June 18.

ACEP Leaders Discuss Mental Health with Lawmakers

As part of ACEP’s continuing Leader Visit Program, Drs. Jay Kaplan (University Medical Center – New Orleans), Abhi Mehrotra (University of North Carolina), and Scott Zeller (Vituity) met with several key members of the House and Senate on Tuesday to discuss innovative approaches to treating patients with emergency mental health conditions. Among the issues discussed were ED programs supplemented by additional support services and personnel, the Behavioral Health Emergency Room (BHER), and the Emergency Psychiatric Assessment Treatment and Healing (EmPATH) Unit.

These programs provide access to more timely, appropriate care for emergency psychiatric patients and have been shown to reduce psychiatric boarding times in the ED, as well as hospital inpatient stays.

ACEP Tele-Town Hall on Gun Violence and Injury Prevention with Rep. Seth Moulton:

Hundreds of ACEP members participated in a tele-town hall on Gun Violence and Injury Prevention last month. Special Congressional guest, Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA), outlined the progress on gun violence and injury prevention legislation in the 115th Congress, including H.R.3999 the Bipartisan Bump Stock Ban, and H.R.5576 the No Fly, No Buy bill. Many members actively participated on the call by asking questions regarding the likelihood of action in this Congress and how ACEP members can get involved to move legislation on common sense solutions that will keep our communities and families safer. The event was the sixth in an ongoing series of tele-town halls offered exclusively to ACEP members to provide education and a platform to discuss current issues in Congress impacting the delivery of emergency care and patients. Previous tele-town halls featured other legislators such as Rep. Diane Black (R-TN), Rep. Michael Burgess (R-TX), Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC) and Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) discussing topics including ACA repeal and replace, physician payment issues, mental health reform and EMS standing orders legislation.

To hear an audio recording of the tele-town hall, [click here](#).

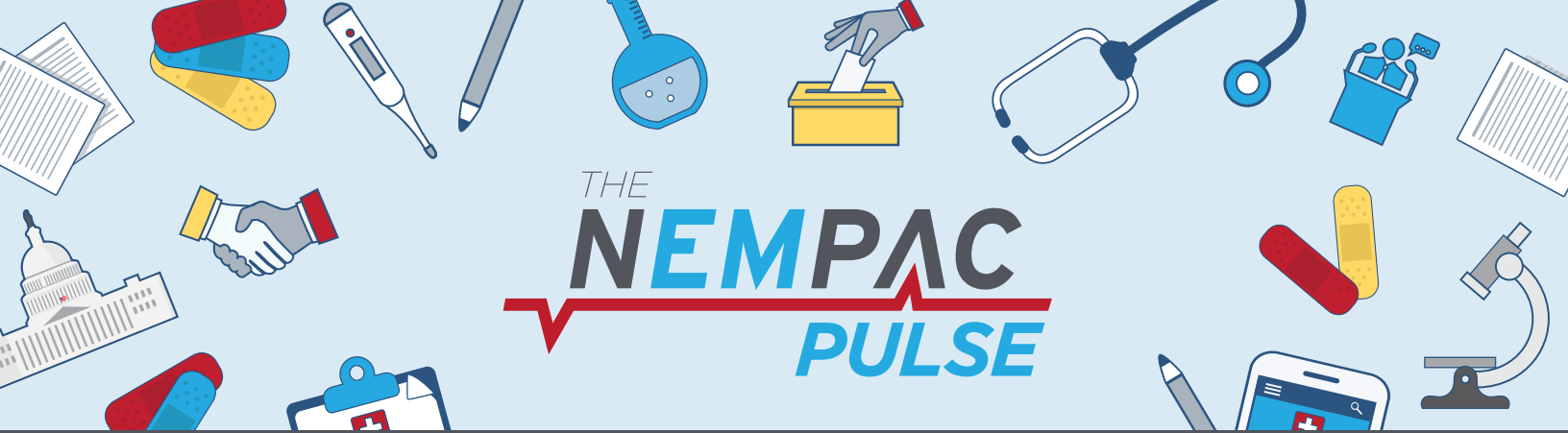
Have you checked out ACEP’s Capital Minute on our YouTube page?

It’s a short video that provides the latest news and information from Washington, DC that affects emergency physicians and your patients. Here’s the July 27 edition of ACEP’s Capital Minute:

<https://youtu.be/7TXa9henXew>

You can also subscribe [here](#) to ACEP’s YouTube page.

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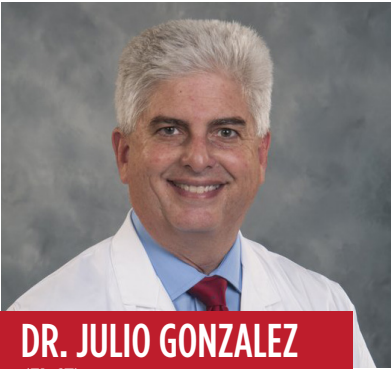


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ELECTION OUTLOOK

When NEMPAC provides financial support to a candidate, it sends a collective message that ACEP members are politically savvy advocates for the specialty and the patients. Candidates can earn NEMPAC support by working in a bipartisan fashion on issues that are crucial to improving the delivery of emergency care and advancing the specialty and the needs of patients.

For a complete listing of NEMPAC supported candidates in the 2018 elections, please go to www.acep.org/nempac.



DR. JULIO GONZALEZ
(FL-17)

Dr. Gonzalez is a former State Senator running in the republican primary for the open seat of retiring member Rep. Tom Rooney in FL-17. Dr. Gonzalez is a practicing orthopedic surgeon, served as a flight surgeon aboard the USS America, and has been an active leader in the AAOS. He is strongly supported by Florida College of Emergency Physicians.



DR. JOHN JOYCE
(PA-13)

Dr. John Joyce won an eight-way primary in May, securing the republican nomination for Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District. Along with his wife, Alice, Dr. Joyce has been a practicing dermatologist and small business owner for over 25 years. The GOP holds a solid majority in voter registration in the 13th District, so Dr. Joyce is likely to win the general election.



DR. STEVE FERRARA
(AZ-09)

Dr. Ferrara is a republican candidate in the AZ race to replace Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, who is running for Senate. He is a practicing radiologist who volunteered for the Navy early in his career to care for combat casualties. After serving as a National Academy of Sciences Fellow, Dr. Ferrara was tapped to be the Navy's Chief Medical Officer. There he helped lead 63,000 medical professionals caring for over 9 million active duty, dependents, and retirees.



ANGIE CRAIG
(MN-02)

Angie Craig is a democrat challenging the incumbent in MN-2. The Minnesota ACEP chapter first brought her campaign to the attention of the NEMPAC Board of Trustees. She has spent more than 20 years working in two healthcare manufacturing companies. One of the top three issues in her race is fixing our healthcare system to ensure affordable, universal access to coverage.



REP. KYRSTEN SINEMA
ARIZONA SENATE CANDIDATE

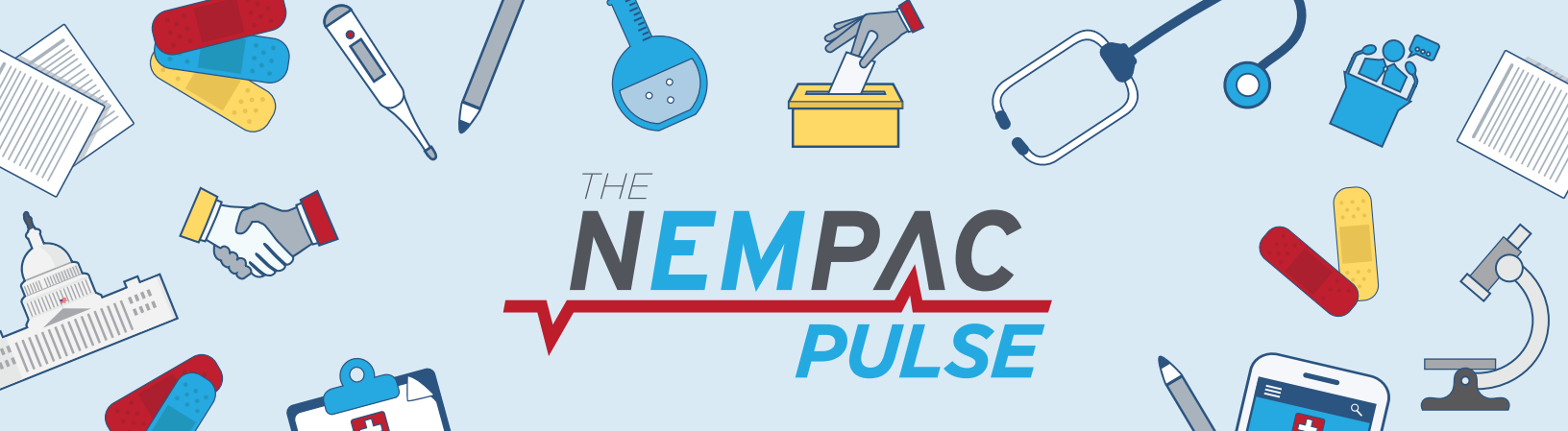
Kyrsten Sinema is running for the U.S. Senate to replace Sen. Flake, who is retiring. She currently serves in the House of Representatives where she was first elected in 2012. She also served in both chambers of the AZ State Legislature and has earned her BA, MSW, PhD, JD, and MBA degrees. Rep. Sinema was a guest speaker at LAC18 where she discussed bi-partisan solutions to the opioid crisis and the health care delivery system.



DR. JEFF VAN DREW
(NJ-02)

Jeff Van Drew is the democratic candidate running in the open seat of Rep. Frank LoBiondo, who is retiring. Dr. Van Drew, a state senator, is a small business owner in Atlantic County, where he has practiced dentistry for more than 35 years. He is also a life member of the Ocean View Fire Company.

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ACEP MEMBERS ADVOCATING FOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE THROUGH NEMPAC

ACEP members all over the nation are meeting with their legislators to provide NEMPAC support and discuss important issues affecting emergency physicians and patients.

Dr. Damian Carabello with Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL).



Dr. Jeremiah Schuur, Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA), and Dr. Lucinda Lai, ACEP Resident member.



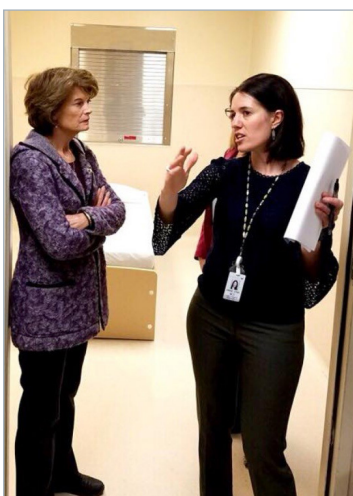
Dr. Abhi Mehrotra with Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN).



Dr. Arlo Weltge, Rep. Michael Burgess, MD (R-TX), and Dr. Allison Haddock, a member of the NEMPAC Board.



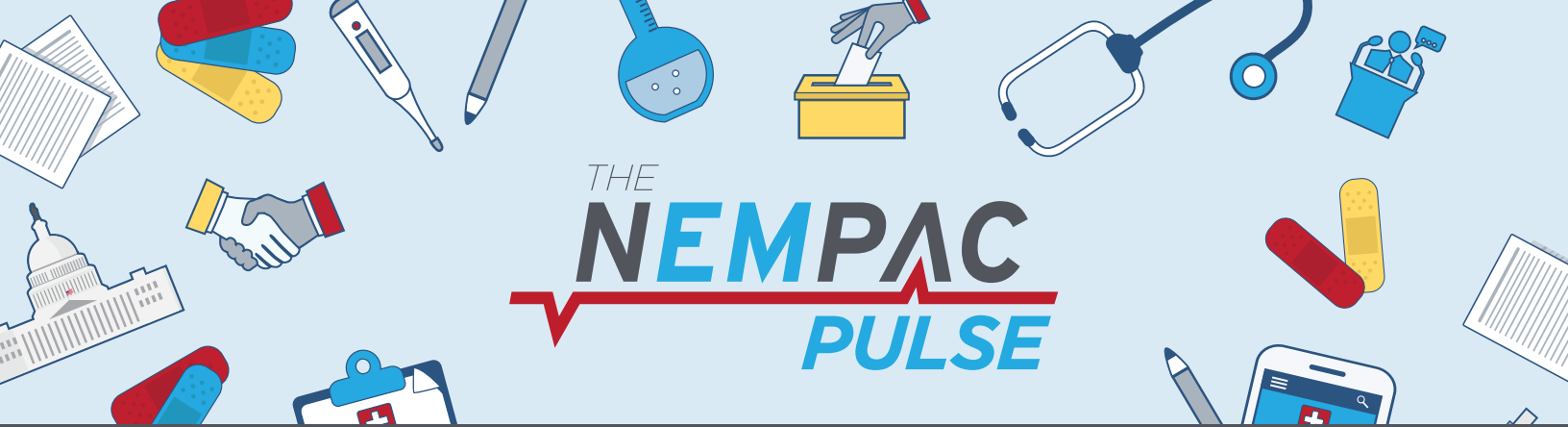
Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) with Dr. Anne Zink.



Wisconsin ACEP members attended a Washington Nationals game at LAC18 with Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI).



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EMRA RESIDENT'S CORNER

Dr. Bryn DeKosky



My Experience in the ACEP Washington, DC Office

During my time in the ACEP DC office as the ACEP/EMRA health policy fellow, I have been impressed by the ability of NEMPAC to have a bipartisan role in shaping healthcare for emergency physicians and millions of patients. Through NEMPAC, I witnessed emergency physicians champion issues that affect my ability to deliver optimal medical care, such as alleviating drug shortages. At fundraising events in Washington, DC I discussed with policymakers the impact of drug shortages and opioids on my daily practice. These small settings, where I was often the only physician in the room, allowed me to share my personal stories with our elected officials to help inform and influence their policymaking.

Residents can make a difference by staying involved — you do not need to travel to Washington, DC to have an impact — you can be just as politically effective at home. Some easy first steps to building up your involvement include joining your local ACEP chapter OR applying for a position with EMRA.

Be sure to join the [911 Legislative Network](#) to stay informed on the latest policy and political news and to communicate with your elected officials on important emergency medicine policy issues. It takes just two minutes to send a pre-drafted message! If you are financially able, supporting NEMPAC is another opportunity for political engagement and networking with ACEP leaders. NEMPAC is an essential component of ACEP's advocacy toolkit.

In residency, financial stressors can be overwhelming but \$5 a month does make a difference. ACEP is a grassroots organization. It truly listens to its members. As emergency physicians, we have all felt the impacts of policy issues on our practice (such as the drug shortage crisis), and when we join together as one united voice of emergency medicine, we are not only listened to and respected by lawmakers, but we make positive change a real possibility. ACEP and NEMPAC are vital to emergency physicians' efforts to make your voice heard.

Bryn DeKosky is an ACEP/EMRA Health Policy Fellow and current resident emergency physician at Kent Hospital in Rhode Island.



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