

# THE NEMPAC PULSE

ISSUE 3 | JANUARY 2019

SPECIAL POST-ELECTION EDITION

## A LETTER FROM DR. JACOBY

CHAIR, NEMPAC BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Welcome to the post-2018 midterm election edition of the NEMPAC Pulse. The months since our previous newsletter have been busy to say the least. Your generous support, and that of your ACEP colleagues, provided NEMPAC with the resources to be a key player in the most expensive midterm elections in the history of our nation. We were able to raise more than \$2 million to support incumbents and new candidates willing to work with us on issues important to emergency medicine and our patients.

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ACEP Executive Director Dean Wilkerson, HHS Secretary Alex Azar, and House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee Chairman Dr. Mike Burgess (R-TX) at the White House for the opioid bill signing ceremony.

## 2018 LEGISLATIVE WINS

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## NEMPAC BOARD OF TRUSTEES

[Click here](#) for 2018-2019 roster and contact information.



## 2018 MIDTERM ELECTION OVERVIEW

[Click here](#) to read a special midterm overview, information on NEMPAC in the 2018 election and elected physicians.



## 2018 MIDTERM ELECTION RESULTS

[Click here](#) to see 2018 midterm election results.



## NEWLY ELECTED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

[Click here](#) to read more on newly elected health officials who will serve in the 116th Congress.



## ACEP PRESIDENT IS PANELIST IN DC ELECTION ANALYSIS

ACEP President Vidor Friedman, MD, FACEP, participated in a post-election briefing hosted by Roll Call in Washington, DC on November 14. Health care leaders and policymakers were asked what the midterm election results would mean for health care priorities and legislative issues, such as the Affordable Care Act, opioids, drug prices, etc. in the upcoming 116th Congress. In addition to Dr. Friedman, the expert panel included Sarah Dash, MPH, President and CEO of the Alliance for Health Policy; Mary Grealy, president of the Healthcare Leadership Council; and Elena Rios, MD, MSPH, president and CEO of National Hispanic Medical Association. Participants also heard from Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Left: Dr. Friedman, Ms. Grealy, Dr. Rios, Ms. Dash, and moderator Rebecca Adams (CQ News) at the Roll Call Election Impact Panel Discussion.



## EMRA - RESIDENTS CORNER

Zach Jarou, MD

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## NEMPAC EVENTS

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*CHAIR, NEMPAC BOARD OF TRUSTEES*



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Now more than ever, NEMPAC needs your help to keep the voice of emergency medicine strong in DC. Health care issues will continue to be debated at both the state and federal levels, and we must keep emergency physicians' voices at the forefront of these discussions on behalf of our profession and our patients. As you will read in this issue, we've had important victories this year to help combat the opioid crisis and address drug shortages. We must continue the important work we've begun to protect patients from surprise gaps in insurance coverage for emergency medical care; defend patients from insurer practices that discourage necessary use of the emergency department; increase access to mental health resources for patients in need of psychiatric care and prevent boarding; promote research in emergency medicine and foster injury prevention activities; and improve safety measures to protect emergency physicians and staff from violence experienced in the emergency department.

NEMPAC depends on each and every one of our ACEP members to help us make a difference.

Your support is critical to ensuring that we start 2019 on strong footing.

Sincerely,

**Peter J. Jacoby, MD, FACEP**  
**NEMPAC Chair**

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# AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS NEMPAC BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2018-2019



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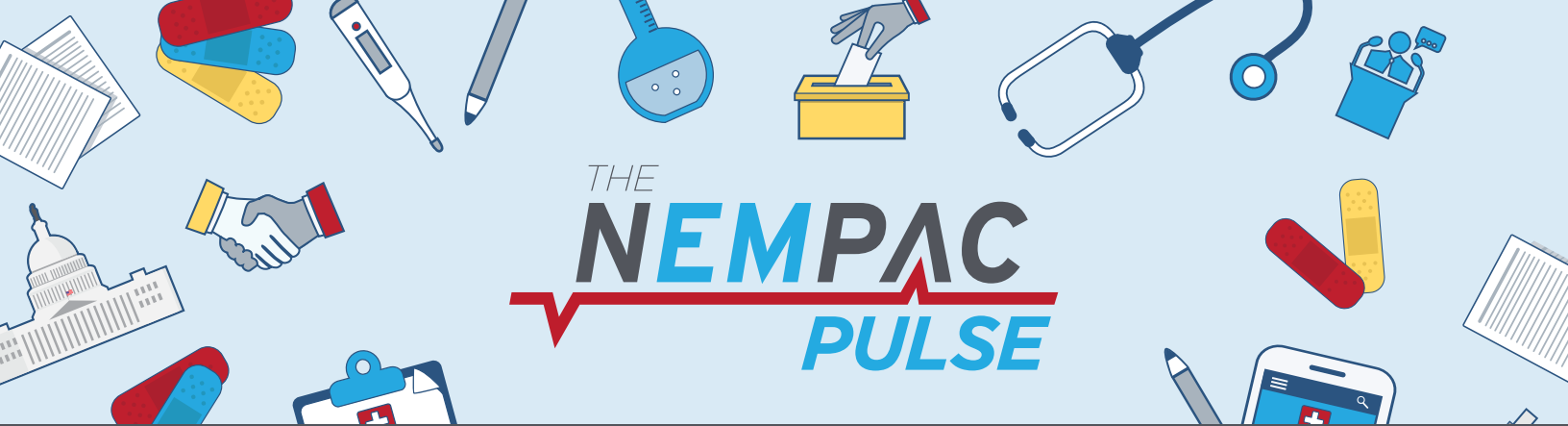
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## NEMPAC EVENTS



### NEMPAC Co-Hosts 9th Annual Specialty Physician and Dentist Candidate Workshop

Fifty physicians and dentists from a variety of specialty organizations attended the annual specialty physician and dentist candidate workshop, November 30 - December 1 in Washington, DC. ACEP members Dr. Justin Fairless from Texas and Dr. Bill Felegi from New Jersey, attended. In addition to several special guest speakers, the program featured breakout sessions, campaign case studies, and best practices aimed at leveraging health professionals' commitment to public service at all levels of government. Congresswoman-elect, Kim Schrier, MD (D-WA-08) provided insider information on her recent successful congressional campaign, which was her first run for public office. To learn more about the workshop or ACEP's ongoing advocacy and political efforts, contact Jeanne Slade at [jslade@acep.org](mailto:jslade@acep.org).

## NEMPAC AT ACEP18 IN SAN DIEGO

### DONOR RECEPTION ON THE USS MIDWAY



### COUNCIL CHALLENGE



### VIP DONOR RECEPTION AT THE WINE AND CULINARY CENTER



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## EMRA RESIDENTS CORNER

# Zach Jarou, MD



## What sparked your interest in emergency medicine?

Emergency medicine was created by a visionary group of fearless trailblazers. They built a specialty that has transformed the way that acute, unscheduled care is delivered in the United States and around the world. I wanted to be a physician who was there when people needed them, with a skill set that would equip me to be ready for patients of all ages, problems and walks of life. Emergency physicians are experts in resuscitation, risk stratification, care coordination, harm reduction, injury prevention, patient advocacy, shared-decision making and teamwork. I am proud to be part of the safety net and fulfill the social mission of emergency medicine. Most importantly, I picked this specialty because of the people. I wouldn't be where I am today without the friendship and mentorship of my incredible EM colleagues.

## When and how did you become involved in EMRA?

I first joined EMRA as a second year medical student while searching for scholarship opportunities to attend national emergency medicine conferences. As a medical student, I served as Web-Technology Coordinator and Chair of EMRA's Medical Student Council. I was lucky to match at my top choice for residency — the Denver Health Residency in Emergency Medicine — a program with a tradition of training leaders, where I was fortunate to have a program director who was very supportive of my ongoing EMRA involvement. As an intern I was elected as EMRA's Director of Membership, and two years later I was elected to serve as EMRA President. Today, EMRA distributes more than \$100k in awards, scholarships, and travel grants each year and has more than 110 sponsored leadership positions for emergency medicine physicians-in-training.

### Proudest accomplishments to date in the advocacy space?

To me, advocacy is broader than the legislative and regulatory work that we usually think of. Advocacy is being a champion for those who are counting on you. It's understanding the challenges of those you serve, and being unafraid to do everything in your power to ensure outcomes that will make their lives better. It's pushing a consultant to do the right thing for your patient. It's creating educational and workplace environments that foster a sense of wellbeing. I'm very proud of the work that EMRA's Representative Council has done over the past several years to ensure that EMRA has a robust Policy Compendium that captures the collective opinions of our membership on a wide range of topics, including the importance of a physician-led workforce, board certification, firearm safety and injury prevention, social determinants of health, drug pricing, women's and mental health, climate change, the opioid epidemic, procedural sedation, medical merit badges, scholarly activity, and changes to the residency application process, just to name a few. In 2018, I was also very proud that EMRA created new partnerships with AFFIRM and FemInEM, organizations that are leading the way on issues important to our members.

**Why is it important for residents to support NEMPAC and participate in grassroots advocacy? Has advocating for emergency medicine become harder or easier and why? What tools help?**

I would encourage all physicians-in-training to get involved with advocacy and NEMPAC. As the saying goes, “if you’re not at the table, then you’re on the menu.” Don’t be the physician who complains about the administrative, legislative, and regulatory burdens of practicing medicine, but doesn’t get involved with being part of the solution. The members of EMRA’s Board of Directors

have made it a priority to give individual \$120 Resident “Give-a-Shift” donations each year to help elect political candidates who will champion issues important to our patients and our specialty. In addition to garnering influence in Washington, being a “Give-a-Shift” donor also entitles residents to attend the NEMPAC VIP Donor receptions at ACEP’s Scientific Assembly and Leadership and Advocacy Conference (LAC) where they can network with like-minded colleagues. In today’s world of partisan politics and debates that are often dominated by personalities rather than policies, it may seem that it’s becoming harder to be an advocate, but that’s exactly what those who don’t want you to have a seat at the table want you to think. But like Woody Allen said, “80 percent of [advocacy] is just showing up.” By virtue of being able to tell the stories of patients that you’ve cared for and how a policy change could have affected their life, you have far more influence with legislators than you realize. Through your donations to NEMPAC, joining the ACEP 911 Network, and attending the LAC conference where you can learn about issues affecting our specialty and visit your members of Congress with colleagues from your district, ACEP provides the tools that make it easy to become an advocate.

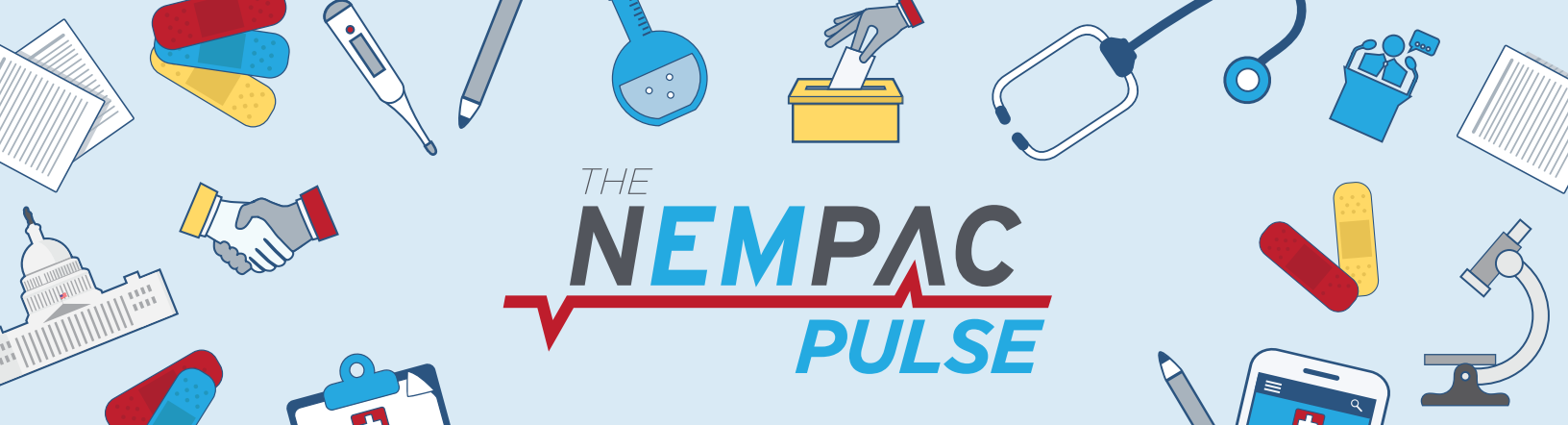
**What do you like to do in your spare time? Any hobbies/interests that you're passionate about?**

Serving as the Immediate Past President of EMRA while completing fellowships in Administration, Quality, Informatics, and Policy through ACEP and in the Section of Emergency Medicine at the University of Chicago where I am concurrently enrolled in the full-time MBA program and working clinically does not leave much spare time, but I love spontaneous travel adventures, craft beer and cocktails, binge watching internet TV, and spending time with my friends and family.



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## NEWLY ELECTED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

These newly elected health professionals will serve in the 116th Congress.



**REP. JOHN JOYCE**  
**(R-PA-13)**

ELECTION: Defeated Brent Ottaway, D

- BORN: 1956
- FAMILY: Wife, Alice; 3 children
- EDUCATION: Pennsylvania State U., 1979 (BA); Temple U., 1983 (MD)
- CAREER: Dermatologist



**REP. MARK GREEN**  
**(R-TN-07)**

ELECTION: Defeated Justin Kanew, D, to succeed Rep. Marsha Blackburn, R, who ran and won a seat in the U.S. Senate

- BORN: November 8, 1964; Jacksonville, FL
- FAMILY: Wife, Camie; 2 children
- EDUCATION: United States Military Academy, 1986 (BA); Wright State U., 1999 (MD)
- CAREER: Emergency Physician
- POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS: Tennessee State Senator, 2012-2019



**REP. KIM SCHREIR**  
**(D-WA-08)**

ELECTION: Defeated Dino Rossi, R, to succeed Rep. Dave Reichert, R, who retired

- BORN: Aug. 23, 1968; Los Angeles, CA
- EDUCATION: U. of California Berkeley (BS); U. of California Davis School of Medicine (MD)
- CAREER: Pediatrician



**REP. JEFF VAN DREW, DDS**  
**(D-NJ-02)**

ELECTION: Defeated Seth Grossman, R, to succeed Rep. Frank LoBiondo, R, who retired

- BORN: February 23, 1953
- FAMILY: Wife, Ricarda; two children
- EDUCATION: Rutgers the State U. of NJ (Bachelor's Degree) 1974; Fairleigh Dickinson U. (Doctorate Degree) 1979
- CAREER: Dentistry; Politics
- POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS: State Assembly Member, NJ General Assembly, 2002-2007; State Senator, NJ Senate, 2008-Present



**REP. LAUREN UNDERWOOD, RN**  
**(D-IL-14)**

ELECTION: Defeated incumbent Rep. Randy Hultgren, R

- BORN: October 4, 1986
- EDUCATION: U. of MI 2008; Johns Hopkins U. 2009
- CAREER: Federal Government; Health care policy advisor
- POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS: Senior Advisor, US Department of Health & Human Service, 2010-2017

## MEETING NEW MEMBERS OF THE 116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS



Dr. Jacoby with Rep.-elect Jahana Hayes (D-CT) during an event in Waterbury, CT.



Congressman Brindisi (NY-22) with Dr. McCabe.



Dr. Adam Crawford with Rep. David McKinley (R-WV).

ACEP is mounting an aggressive push to meet as many of the new congressional members as possible in the early months of the new 116th Congress. We will be setting up local meetings between ACEP 911 Network members and new legislators to introduce them to emergency medicine's role in the health care delivery system and to establish a local contact in the health care space. If you live or work in a congressional district of a new member of Congress and are interested in hosting or participating in one of these meetings, please contact Jeanne Slade or Caitlin Demchuk in the ACEP Washington DC office for more details.

## ALL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS SERVING IN THE 116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS

**Bold text** indicates a new Member of Congress.

### MEMBER OF CONGRESS

#### United States Senate

Sen. John Barrasso, MD (R-WY)

Sen. John Boozman, OD (R-AR)

Sen. Bill Cassidy, MD (R-LA)

Sen. Rand Paul, MD (R-KY)

#### House of Representatives

Rep. Ralph Abraham, MD (R-LA-05)

Rep. Brian Babin, DDS (R-TX-36)

Rep. Karen Bass, PA, MSW (D-CA-37)

Rep. Ami Bera, MD (D-CA-07)

Rep. Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN-08)

Rep. Michael Burgess, MD (R-TX-26)

Rep. Buddy Carter, BSPharm (R-GA-01)

Rep. Scott DesJarlais, MD (R-TN-04)

Rep. Neal Dunn, MD (R-FL-02)

Rep. Drew Ferguson, IV, DMD, PC (R-GA-03)

Rep. Paul Gosar, DDS (R-AZ-04)

**Rep. Mark Green, MD (R-TN-07)**

Rep. Andy Harris, MD (R-MD-01)

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, RN (D-TX-30)

**Rep. John Joyce, MD, FAAD, FACP (R-PA-13)**

Rep. Alan Lowenthal, PhD (D-CA-47)

Rep. Roger Marshall, MD (R-KS-01)

Rep. Phil Roe, MD (R-TN-01)

Rep. Raul Ruiz, MD, MPP, MPH (D-CA-36)

Rep. Kurt Schrader, DVM (D-OR-05)

**Rep. Kim Schrier, MD (D-WA-08)**

Rep. Mike Simpson, DMD (R-ID-02)

Rep. Glenn Thompson, MEd (R-PA-15)

**Rep. Lauren Underwood, RN (D-IL-14)**

**Rep. Jeff Van Drew, DDS (D-NJ-02)**

Rep. Brad Wenstrup, DPM (R-OH-02)

### PROFESSION

Orthopedic Surgeon

Optometrist

Gastroenterologist/Hepatologist

Ophthalmologist

Family Physician/Veterinarian

Dentist

Nurse/Physician Assistant

Internal Medicine Physician

Cardiothoracic Surgeon

Obstetrician

Pharmacist

General Medicine

Urologist

Dentist

Dentist

**Emergency Physician**

Obstetric Anesthesiologist

Registered Nurse

**Dermatologist**

Psychologist

OB/GYN

OB/GYN

Emergency Physician

Veterinarian

**Pediatrician**

Dentist

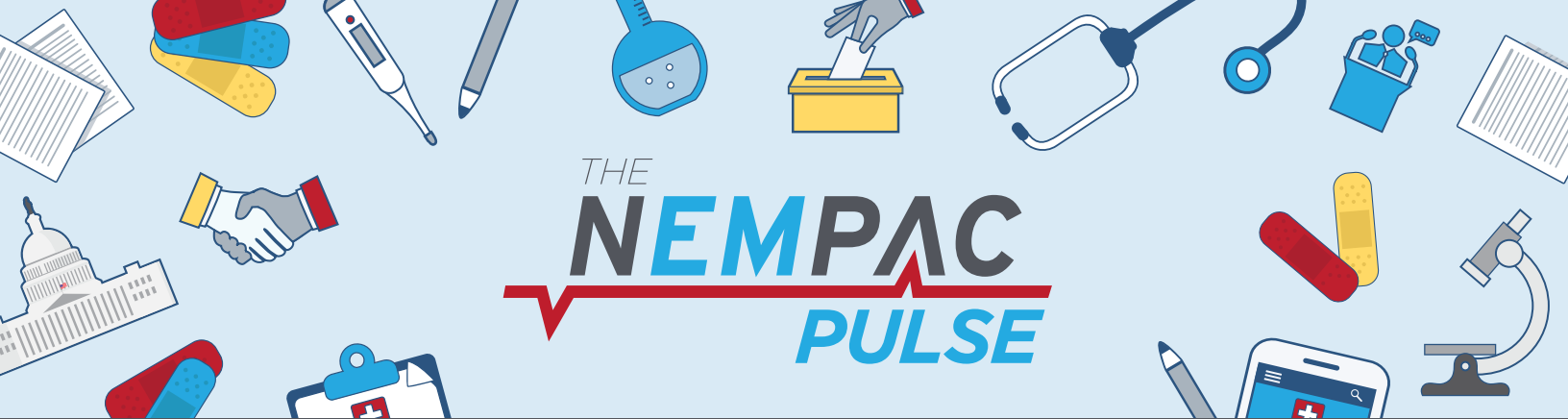
Rehabilitation Therapist

**Health care policy advisor**

**Dentist**

Podiatrist

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## LEGISLATIVE WINS



ACEP Executive Director Dean Wilkerson, HHS Secretary Alex Azar, and House Energy and Commerce Health Subcommittee Chairman Dr. Mike Burgess (R-TX) at the White House for the opioid bill signing ceremony.

### ACEP-Supported Opioid Package Becomes Law

On October 10, President Trump signed H.R. 6, the “SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act,” into law; a significant victory for emergency medicine and the patients and families affected by the opioid crisis. ACEP was one of only a few medical societies to attend the signing ceremony and was represented by Executive Director Dean Wilkerson.

The law (P.L. 115-271) includes two ED-specific provisions that ACEP was closely involved in developing—the first authorizes grants to expand the Alternatives to Opioids (ALTO) program in the nation’s emergency departments, and the second develops best practices for ED-initiated Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs that provide a “warm handoff” of opioid use disorder patients from the emergency department to appropriate community resources and providers to keep them engaged in addiction treatment.

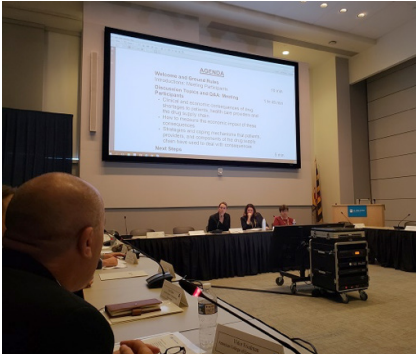
ACEP worked closely with congressional leadership, House-Senate conferees, and the bill sponsors over the past year to ensure these provisions were included in the final package passed into law and used the ACEP-preferred legislative language.

### Addressing the Drug Shortage Crisis in the Emergency Department

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) held a listening session with members of the physician community. ACEP was one of 10 physician groups invited to the session, which was convened as part of the FDA’s Drug Shortages Task Force efforts to identify the root causes of drug shortages and develop solutions to address this persistent problem. ACEP was represented by Vidor Friedman, MD, FACEP, who shared the perspective of emergency medicine, highlighting the common shortages experienced in the emergency department that affect the everyday practice of emergency physicians and our patients.

This meeting, as well as ACEP’s ongoing conversation with the FDA, reinforces the effectiveness of advocacy by emergency physicians. During the 2018 Leadership and Advocacy Conference, emergency physicians wrote letters urging legislators to ask the FDA to address the root causes of drug shortages and delivering recommendations to Congress on how to fix these significant problems affecting patient care.

Thanks to the efforts of EM advocates, these letters secured more than 100 bipartisan signatories in the House and more than 30 in the Senate. Only a few short weeks later, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb announced the creation of the FDA Drug Shortage Task Force, and the commissioner himself has made the issue one of his top priorities. ACEP will continue to take an active role as the task force delves further into this critical issue.



ACEP President Vidor Friedman, MD, FACEP at FDA.

## ONGOING ADVOCACY EFFORTS



ACEP President Vidor Friedman, MD, FACEP with Senator Todd Young (R-IN).

### ACEP Continues Work with Bipartisan Price Transparency Workgroup

This fall, ACEP participated in several meetings and roundtable discussions with the Senate Bipartisan Price Transparency Workgroup on draft legislation related to out-of-network billing issues. The workgroup, comprised of Senators Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Charles Grassley (R-IA), Michael Bennet (D-CO), Todd Young (R-IN), and Tom Carper (D-DE), recently released a discussion draft of their legislation and requested feedback on how to best address this complex topic.

In the latest meeting, ACEP was represented by Board member Tony Cirillo, MD, FACEP, and ACEP’s Associate Executive Director for Public Affairs, Laura Wooster. Several other physician groups, insurers, employers, and trade associations participated. FAIR Health, an independent, national non-profit organization, also presented their data on provider charges and insurer payments, which is widely used in states that have established laws to address out-of-network issues.

In addition to these conversations, ACEP President Vidor Friedman, MD, FACEP, met with the senators and staff of the bipartisan workgroup to offer feedback on the proposal and help refine the language of the draft.

Read the full ACEP response letter [here](#).  
Read the executive summary of the letter [here](#).

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# THE NEMPAC PULSE

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## 2018 MIDTERM RESULTS

Total  
registered voters  
**235  
Million**



NEMPAC supported  
**227 Candidates**



**190** NEMPAC-supported  
candidates won

Total U.S.  
voter turnout

**47.3%**

**10.9%**  
more people voted than in  
2014 (36.4 percent)



Raised  
**\$2.1 Million**  
as of today

### SENATE RESULTS:

Republicans maintained control

New breakdown:

**53 Rep. | 47 Dem.**

**3 seats** changed from Democrat to Republican

**1 seat** changed from Republican to Democrat

### HOUSE RESULTS:

Democrats gained control

New breakdown:

**234 Dem. | 200 Rep. | 1 undecided**

**3 seats** changed from Democrat to Republican

**42 seats** changed from Republican to Democrat

## LOOKING AHEAD



First day of the 116th Congress: **Jan. 3, 2019**



2020 general election: **Nov. 3, 2020**

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The 2018 midterm elections will break records in both dollars spent, nearly \$5.2 billion, and voter turnout. More than 47 percent of the voting-eligible population (110 million) cast a ballot in the midterm elections, according to early estimates from the United States Election Project. The big news of the night came in the race for the House of Representatives, where the Democrats took the majority for the first time since 2010. At this writing, House Democrats currently have a 36-seat majority with 235 Democrats and 199 Republicans coming to the 116th Congress and one race uncalled. This is a slimmer margin than the current Republican majority of 45 seats.

The 2018 midterm elections saw relatively few surprises. Republicans performed well where President Trump's approval rating was over 50 percent, and Democrats performed well where it was below 50 percent. Most of the significant changes materialized in the suburbs where previously Republican districts changed to Democratic control with college-educated suburban women putting several Democratic candidates over the top. Preliminary exit polls show that women voted for House Democrats by a 21-point margin, 60 percent to 39 percent, while men were split – 48 percent backed Democrats and 50 percent backed Republicans.

A key factor in all of these races is that Independents broke toward Democrats for the first time since Barack Obama led the ticket in 2008. Exit polls show that three in 10 voters who didn't identify with either party supported Democratic candidates by a 13-point margin, 54 percent to 41 percent. This contrasts with the 2016 elections when Independents favored Republican candidates by a four-point margin.

Republicans will maintain control of the Senate with a two seat increase in their majority at 53 Republicans vs. 45 Democrats and two Independents who caucus with Democrats.

Exit polling pointed to health care as a dominant issue in the congressional elections; specifically, protections for pre-existing conditions, health care costs, support for the ACA and drug pricing. Across the competitive Republican-held seats that Democrats needed to win to take control of the House – health care was a defining issue for an overwhelming majority (63 percent), and Democrats had an eight-point advantage (52 percent to 44 percent) on the issue.



NEMPAC donated nearly **\$2 million to candidates and national party committees during the 2018 elections.**

**227 candidates were supported** – 203 for House races and 24 for Senate races. Nearly **85 percent** of these candidates won their elections.

**Twenty-two** of the open seat and challenger candidates that NEMPAC supported will be coming to Congress next year.



NEMPAC supported the successful campaigns of several new physician candidates, although six NEMPAC-supported doctor candidates were unsuccessful in their election bids.

[Click here](#) for a list of all health professionals that will serve in the 116th Congress.

NEMPAC also supported former HHS Secretary **Donna Shalala in the FL-27** open seat. She is expected to play a major role in the health care policy space in Congress.

[Click here](#) for a list of all candidates supported by NEMPAC and their win/loss status.

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