

*What Can You Do?
EMS and Washington*



Advocates for EMS



Kurt Krumperman

MS NREMT-P

President of AEMS

Clinical Assistant Professor
Emergency Health Services

UMBC



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The Questions



- **What do your patients need?**
- **What do you need as an EMS provider?**
- **What does your EMS agency need?**
- **What should EMS be 10 years from now?**
- **What could be done in Washington to help?**

Advocates for EMS-The EMS COALITION

6 Years of Growth & Now Over 30 Organizational Members!



- **National Association of EMS Physicians-NAEMSP**

- **National Association of State EMS Officials-NAEMSO**

- **National Association of EMTs-NAEMT**

- **National Association of EMS Educators-NAEMSE**

Mission



- Promote EMS in Washington
- Educate decision makers and the public on the importance of EMS
- Monitor and influence legislation, regulation and funding
- Seek increased Federal support for *all components* of EMS and provider type: fire, nongovernmental, third service, hospital, volunteer and college.

Vision for EMS



- Community based, planned, accountable and fully integrated with all health care
- Ability to identify and reduce injury & illness risk
- Care for sick and injured and contribute to chronic illness care and community health monitoring
- EMS System revolves around the needs of the patient
- Seamless service delivery
- Evidence-based practice and rapid adaptation of innovation
- Embedded disaster preparedness and surge capacity
- Appropriate use of acute health care resources

Advocates Activities



- **Leadership provided by Board of Directors, with input and support from supporting members**
- **Raise awareness of EMS issues by lobbying Congress and Executive agencies.**
- **Citizen grassroots advocacy**
- **Monthly teleconference/bi-annual forums**
- **Website posting of issue papers, reports, action alerts, supplemented by email communication on issues.**

Advocates for EMS Top Priorities for 2010



- 1) Comprehensive EMS Legislation
- 2) Appropriations
 - 1) National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMESIS) funding
 - 2) DHS First Responder Funding-at the field level
 - 3) Regionalization Pilots
 - 4) Fund the Rural Firefighters and EMS Bill
- 3) Recruit Members for the EMS Caucus
- 4) EMS on the Hill-Lobby Day May 4
- 5) Support others complimentary initiatives-EMSC



Comprehensive Field EMS Bill



- Achieve the vision of the EMS Agenda for the Future
- Enhance the development of mature, accountable, high-quality, evidence-based, cost-effective systems for day to day and disaster response
- Five Key Attributes
 - **Quality**
 - **Workforce**
 - **Accountability**
 - **Safety**
 - **Finance**

EMS Caucus



Advocates has been working to build the EMS Caucus on Capitol Hill.

- **Tim Walz (MN)-EMS Caucus Chair**
- **Charles Boustany (LA)- EMS Caucus Co-chair**
- **Dutch Ruppersberger (MD) – EMS Caucus Co-Chair**
- **Jason Altmire (PA)**
- **Tom Latham (IA)**
- **Dave Loebsack (IA)**
- **Chris Carney (PA)**
- **Patrick Murphy (PA)**
- **Bruce Braley(IA)**

AEMS in 2009



- **Stimulus Package-2 Billion Health IT Grant Program**
 - AEMS gets EMS included
- **Health Care Reform-Regionalization**
- **Ryan White Care Act Renewal**
- **NEMESIS**
 - 1.5m
- **Report language in DHS Grants-EMS at the table**

How can you advocate?

Know the rules and the players



- Congress is organized by committees
- Different committees have our issues

- **House**

- Appropriations
- Energy and Commerce
- Ways and Means
- Homeland Security
- Transportation
- Judiciary

- **Senate**

- Appropriations
- HELP
- Finance
- Homeland Security
- Commerce
- Judiciary

Appropriations



- Discretionary Spending-Zero Sum Game
- Fund the agencies and the programs
- NHTSA
- HHS
 - ASPR
 - CDC
 - HRSA
- DHS
 - FEMA
 - OHA



Congressional Staff



- **Members Staff**
 - Chief
 - Legislative Director
 - Subject Staff
 - Aids
 - Correspondents

- **Committee Staff**
 - Majority Staff
 - Minority Staff



The Administration



- **NHTSA Office of EMS**
 - NEMSIS
 - Education Agenda
 - 911-Next Generation
 - Pandemic Preparedness
 - FICEMS
- **HHS**
 - CDC
 - ASPR/NDMS
 - CMS
- **DHS**
 - OHA
 - FEMA--USFA

The Administration



- **Federal Inter-agency Committee on EMS (FICEMS)**
 - NHTSA
 - HHS-ASPER, CDC, CMS, IH
 - DHS-CMO, USFA
 - DoD
 - DoC
- **FICEMS Committees**
 - Preparedness
 - Medical Oversight
 - Research
 - 911 and Communications
 - EMS Assessment

The Administration



- National EMS Advisory Committee (NEMSAC)
 - Safety
 - Systems
 - Analysis and Oversight
 - Education and Workforce
 - Finance
- EMS Makes a Difference
- **www.EMS.gov**



EMS on the Hill May 3 and 4

- **Join NAEMT for the First Annual EMS on the Hill Day with EMS professionals to advocate for EMS as part of the EMS community's first coordinated national effort to visit congressional leaders and staff on Capitol Hill.**
- **Representation from EMS organizations from all sectors of the EMS community providing a consistent message to Congress on the key issues affecting EMS**
- **www.naemt.org**

Are you participating in the process?



- Make a phone call! It's easier than you think.....
- Find your member of Congress on the Advocates website
- Call the Washington office and ask for the Health Legislative Assistant
- Tell them who you are, where you live & what you do
- Explain why you are calling – ask them to join the EMS Caucus
- Visit www.AdvocatesForEMS.org to contact your member of Congress! Click on **Take Action**

Welcome to the Advocates for EMS and NAEMT Capwiz site!

Washington DC Office Visit



- Be upbeat, positive and precise
- EMS has prestige-wear your uniform
- Offer to be a resource
- Make only one or two “asks” at a time
- You have just 120 seconds!
- What you want/why you need it/who supports it
- How you request affects you back home
- Have material to leave behind-provide facts
- Thank you note and follow up

Follow Up



- Visit in district office
- Go to a public meeting and ask a question
- Go back to DC
- Provide updates

- Persistence!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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Questions??????????



Kurt Krumperman

kkrum@umbc.edu

410-455-3775

www.advocatesforems.org