

Legislators Need You

No one is an expert on everything, even elected officials. That's why lawmakers need information from people who are experts in their field—and what better expert than a physician to talk to a legislator about health policy and the practice of medicine?

7 Rules for Influencing Lawmakers

1. **Know your legislators:** Get to know the legislators from your district on a personal basis. Make sure they know you're a physician and an ally ready to lend your expertise when a health policy issue arises.
2. **Know ABOUT your legislators:** Find out about the committees on which they serve. What issues are particularly important to him or her?
3. **Don't limit your contact to crisis situations:** Keep up with your legislators—even when you don't need anything from them! Your influence will drop if you don't stay in touch or you only reach out to ask for something.
4. **Know your legislators' staffers:** With lots of issues and obligations tying up their time, lawmakers must rely heavily on their staffs. Sometimes, educating staffers can be as significant as educating the legislator.
5. **Have a focused and concise message:** Believe it or not, legislators have very little disposable time. Keep it short and sweet—your legislator will appreciate it!
6. **Avoid trashing other organizations or people:** Chances are, you and your legislator won't agree on every issue. We all have strong opinions, but always remember to stay respectful of other organizations, people, and points of view.

7. **Accept setbacks graciously:** Especially in politics, not every effort results in a win. If a member votes contrary to your advice, it's not because they are uninformed or out to "get" emergency physicians. Remember: It's not personal!

Ready to Act? Here Are Some Ideas!

Get coffee with your legislator

An informal meeting over coffee is a great way to make your first contact with a legislator or stay in touch with a legislator you've already met.

For tips on reaching out to your legislator, setting up a meeting, and making the most out of legislator "facetime", check out: www.ohacep.org/Coffee

Write to your legislator

Hearing from constituents helps a legislator stay informed about issues in their district. It can also help you introduce yourself and/or your organization or, if the legislator already knows you, it's a great way to help legislators keep you in mind for advice on health policy issues.

For tips on writing an effective letter to your legislator, check out: www.ohacep.org/Letter

Write a Letter to the Editor

Physicians are leaders in their communities, and newspapers are still a great way to reach local communities, share an important policy position, or even set the record straight on an article the newspaper already published.

Check out tips on writing a great letter to the editor at www.ohacep.org/LTE

Host an ED visit

Legislators are looking for information about our healthcare system—where it works and where it doesn't work. As the front-line of our nation's healthcare delivery system, emergency physicians are well-positioned to provide that information by giving legislators a firsthand look at the challenges you face each day.

To learn how we can help you invite and host a legislator to visit your ED, check out:

www.ohacep.org/EDVisit

Stay up to date

Chapter members get our monthly Advocacy Update e-bulletin covering the very latest on the issues affecting emergency physicians and how you can make a difference.

Check out current and past editions at www.ohacep.org/AdvocacyUpdate

Use our Advocacy Card!

We have created a "Get to Know Ohio's Emergency Physicians" card to help you make your case to legislators and introduce them to the issues that matter to emergency physicians. Feel free to use it as a talking points "cheat sheet" or simply leave the card with legislators for them to review!

To request hard copies, give us a call, or to see the card on the web, visit:

www.ohacep.org/AdvocacyCard



Our Advocacy Agenda

We understand you entered the field of emergency medicine to treat patients, save lives, and help ensure everyone gets the medical care they need—not to worry about laws that tell you how to practice medicine or whether you will be fairly reimbursed for the work you do. That’s why we fight for reforms to help you provide the best possible care for your patients:

- ✦ Special liability protection for EMTALA-mandated care
- ✦ Fair payment and reimbursement
- ✦ Addressing the challenges of emergency department crowding and psychiatric boarding
- ✦ Protecting patient access to quality emergency care
- ✦ Preserving ability to serve patients in a time-critical environment
- ✦ Fighting against administrative burdens that impede ability to provide care

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elected officials with just one click!**

Messages and data rates may apply. Text HELP to 52886 for help. Text STOP to 52886 to cancel.

Ohio ACEP PAC

Did you know you have your very own Political Action Committee? Ohio ACEP fights for you by helping to elect state candidates who understand issues facing emergency medicine and who support emergency physicians.

How Does Ohio ACEP PAC Make a Difference?

Through contributions to Ohio ACEP PAC, we can help favorable legislators retain their election positions.

But there’s more to Ohio ACEP PAC than contributions to political campaigns. While PAC contributions don’t “buy” legislation or legislators, they do provide us with opportunities to have conversations with policymakers in an informal setting. Through repeated interactions like these, we can build personal relationships with elected officials who value the input of physicians and physicians’ organizations.

Make a Contribution!

By contributing to Ohio ACEP Political Action Committee, you add clout to the collective voice of Ohio’s emergency physicians. Help us help you advance emergency care!

To contribute, call (614) 792-6506 or visit www.ohacep.org/JoinPAC to download the contribution form.

Contributions to Ohio ACEP PAC are not deductible for federal or state income tax purposes. Voluntary political contributions by individuals to Ohio ACEP PAC should be written on personal checks and are subject to limitations of FEC regulations. Ohio law prohibits corporations from making political contributions.

PHYSICIAN ADVOCACY

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The Emergency Physician’s Guide to Making a Difference



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