



## National Association of EMS Physicians®

4400 College Boulevard, Suite 220, Overland Park, KS 66211

Phone: (913) 222-8654, Toll Free: 800-228-3677, Fax: (913) 222-8606  
info-NAEMSP@NAEMSP.org • www.NAEMSP.org

### EMS Physicians Laud Senate Passage of Bipartisan Bill Protecting Medical Treatment of Emergency Patients, Sponsored by Senators Bill Cassidy (Louisiana) and Michael Bennet (Colorado)

WASHINGTON, DC (October 26, 2017) – The National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) applauds the Senate’s passage of the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017. The House of Representatives unanimously passed a similar version of the bill (H.R. 304) in January. The Senate-approved bill included minor technical changes from the House version requiring the House to approve the Senate version of the bill before it becomes law.

This bipartisan legislation ensures emergency medical service (EMS) care providers, such as paramedics, are able to continue administering the appropriate life-saving emergency medications to patients, without needing to obtain physician permission and potentially delay critical patient care. Additionally, the bill facilitates and strengthens the Drug Enforcement Agency’s (DEA) oversight of EMS.

*“This bill will protect Americans and enable our medical first responders to do their utmost to care for patients in their most vulnerable moments,”* said Dr. Brent Myers, President of NAEMSP. *“We want to extend our deepest gratitude to the bill sponsors Senators Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA) and Michael Bennet (D-CO) for their unwavering support.”*

*“EMS professionals should have multiple tools at their disposal to respond to traumatic events,”* said Senator Michael Bennet. *“This bipartisan legislation will allow them to administer life-saving drugs directly to patients while also creating safeguards to track controlled substances and prevent diversion. We applaud its passage in the Senate and encourage the House to follow suit.”*

NAEMSP, a patient-centered organization of nearly 2,000 emergency medical professionals, led the industry response to the yet-pending federal regulations, working directly with the DEA and then members of Congress to put forward the Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act.

*“The Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act is a testament to the value of tenacious advocacy, from NAEMSP and our partners the American College of Emergency Physicians and National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, and of bipartisan leadership and collaboration,”* said Dr. Ritu Sahni, Chair of NAEMSP’s Advocacy Committee. *“We urge the House of Representatives and President Donald Trump to take immediate action to advance this bill.”*

*“Laws and regulations have prevented first responders from providing life-saving treatment to patients,”* said Senator Bill Cassidy, M.D. (R-LA), winner of NAEMSP’s 2017 Friends of EMS Award. *“This legislation gives EMS agencies the ability to administer emergency treatment and controlled substances to those in need.”*

Standing orders, the authorization for medical professionals to autonomously perform certain emergency treatments, were put in question by developing DEA Controlled Substances Act (CSA) regulations. Along with preserving the ability to use standing orders, the legislation also provides a framework to enable the DEA to oversee EMS in a consistent manner across the nation and clarify protocols to follow in a uniform manner to prevent diversion.

###



## National Association of EMS Physicians®

4400 College Boulevard, Suite 220, Overland Park, KS 66211

Phone: (913) 222-8654, Toll Free: 800-228-3677, Fax: (913) 222-8606  
info-NAEMSP@NAEMSP.org • www.NAEMSP.org

### **About the National Association of Emergency Services Physicians (NAEMSP)**

The National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) is an organization of physicians and other out-of-hospital emergency medical care professionals partnering to provide leadership and foster excellence in the subspecialty of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) medicine. NAEMSP also publishes the peer-reviewed and top-ranked *Prehospital Emergency Care* journal, as well as a blog and podcast on breaking issues and developments in the EMS field.

### **Contact Information:**

Kelsey Dentinger

Public Affairs Account Executive

Phone: 202 – 207 – 1105

Email: [KDentinger@kellencompany.com](mailto:KDentinger@kellencompany.com)