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**Message from the President**

Lisa Bundy, M.D., FACEP

Happy New Year! I'm sure every emergency department is buzzing with activity, with flu, COVID and RSV in full force. We are all facing numerous challenges for the new year, and the MS ACEP Board of Directors is amping it up. Several issues are at the forefront here in Mississippi, and nationally, including scope of practice, ED boarding, workplace violence, education challenges and more. We want to hear from you and want our members to be involved in the solutions.

As president, I would like to increase our member involvement. We can only affect change as a team, just like in the emergency department. As such, I would like to establish committees headed by a member of the board to focus on our many issues. More information on committees will come in the next couple of months. The BOD met January 27, virtually, to discuss plans for the upcoming year.

A major issue for us in Mississippi is physician retention. We all agree that the gold standard is an EM residency trained and ABEM or AOBEM certified physician in every department, however, it is a struggle to attract these physicians to our state, especially in rural areas. Those of us who have worked in a rural or critical access hospital know that a well-trained emergency physician is paramount, as you have no backup and little access to consultants. Some are being staffed by nurse practitioners, who, while vital to the emergency team, do not have the training and expertise of an emergency physician. What can we do as a chapter to keep our residents here and attract new physicians to our state? Why do our residents leave?

Change must come, and I believe it can only be done using our legislative resources. Dr. Fred Kency will be heading up our legislative efforts, and we need members for his team. The nurse practitioner lobby continues to push for independent practice, workplace violence against healthcare workers continues to

go unpunished, and systems issues like boarding continually get pushed on the ED leadership. Other major issues include Medicaid expansion and THC products being sold to kids. I truly believe getting our membership more involved is key to addressing these challenges. We cannot do it alone!

There are multiple ways to become involved in the solution, either at the state or the national level. For those of you in our rural areas, consider joining the Rural EM section. The current Chair is our own Councillor Dr. Rick Carlton, and the Chair-Elect is another Mississippi Chapter member, Dr. Steven Haywood. The Rural EM section is extremely active and our state needs all the representation it can get at the national level. ACEP has FORTY sections, as well as multiple interest groups, including exploring retirement, ultrasound, cruise ship medicine, locums, disaster medicine, toxicology, telehealth, among so many others. Sections are great ways to make contacts, get involved, and harness resources.

Consider joining Dr. Kency and me in Washington, D.C., in April 27-29 for the Leadership & Advocacy Conference. We will be meeting with our elected officials in Congress to lobby for change for our specialty and our patients, learn what is being done, and what challenges we face on a national level. It is an eye-opening event! Check out ACEP's website for more information at [www.acep.org/lac](http://www.acep.org/lac).

The New Year always ushers in feelings of renewal and change, and it's time to bring that to Mississippi. Join us in our efforts to champion emergency care in Mississippi and make our voices heard.

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## FROM NATIONAL ACEP



### ACEP Resources & Latest News

#### **ACEP Calls for Administration to Ensure Robust Federal Health Infrastructure**

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) respectfully calls on the Administration to recognize the critical importance of a robust federal health infrastructure in safeguarding the prosperity and security of our nation, and the health and well-being of our people. [Read more](#).

### **Act Now to Reverse the Medicare Cuts**

With ACEP's strong support, new bipartisan legislation has been introduced to reverse the harmful Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) cuts. [Read more.](#)

### **Change is Happening Fast: ACEP is Your Voice in Washington When it Matters Most**

The first days of the Trump Administration include seismic policy shifts with significant implications for emergency physicians and patients. [Read more.](#)

### **ACEP Strongly Applauds Senate Bill Supporting Physician Mental Health**

Bipartisan legislation introduced in the Senate this week would reauthorize funding for the law named in honor of the life and legacy of Dr. Lorna Breen, an emergency physician who died by suicide during the pandemic. [Read more.](#)

### **Ohio ACEP is Protecting Emergency Physicians from Violence**

A new Ohio law will help protect the state's emergency physicians and health care workers from violence. Ohio ACEP advocacy supported the effort from start to finish. [Read more.](#)

### **ACEP Applauds HHS for Raising Corporatization Concerns, Continues to Press for Change**

ACEP strongly applauds the [new report from the Dept of Health and Human Services \(HHS\)](#) regarding consolidation in health care. [Read more.](#)

### **AHRQ Announces 'Special Emphasis' on Research to Reduce Boarding**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is doubling down on efforts to address boarding in the emergency department, building on ACEP-generated momentum. [Read more.](#)

### **Connecticut ACEP Leads Efforts to Boost Hospital Transparency Around Boarding Crisis - UPDATE**

With the state legislative session now underway, ACEP members are leading the call for changes to alleviate the boarding crisis. Read the [report](#) prepared for legislators by Dr. Christopher Moore and the committee of physicians. [Read more.](#)

### **ACEP Applauds Reauthorization of Emergency Medical Services for Children Law**

The ACEP-supported bipartisan Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Reauthorization Act of 2024 was signed into law December 23, 2024. [Read more.](#)

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## **Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines**

- [\*\*Shift Change: Part II The First 100 Days of the 119th Congress and Trump Administration\*\*](#)  
**February 13, 2025**  
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Central time  
Almost a quarter of the way into the first 100 days of the new Trump Administration and the 119th Congress, and the news cycle has been filled with new developments. Join ACEP advocacy staff to cut through the noise

and learn what it all means for you as an emergency physician and for your patients. If you missed Part I, [view it here on demand](#).

- **[ACEP Council 101](#)**

**April 10, 2025**

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Central time

Join ACEP Council Speaker Melissa W. Costello, MD, FACEP, and ACEP Council Vice Speaker Michael J. McCrea, MD, FACEP, to learn about how the ACEP Council works and how even a single member can make a big impact on the policy and direction of the College. The ACEP Council is a deliberative body that meets once a year for two days in conjunction with the College's annual Scientific Assembly. The Council votes on resolutions that guide the activities of the College. Learn how to craft your resolution and weigh in on the pressing issues in emergency medicine.

- **[ACEP Leadership & Advocacy Conference](#)**

**April 27-29, 2025**

Join your colleagues in Washington, DC, and make your collective voices heard to inspire change for your patients and your specialty. Both chambers of Congress are expected to be in session. Together, we'll:

- tackle problems facing EM such as the current boarding crisis,
- develop tools to advocate at all levels, and
- build relationships with policymakers and fellow advocates.

[Register today!](#)

- **[ACEP25 Scientific Assembly](#)**

**September 7-10, 2025**

For the first time, ACEP's annual meeting will be in the beautiful city of Salt Lake City, UT. The world's largest emergency medicine educational conference bringing together the global EM community.

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## Contact Us

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