



Editor's Letter

David D. Vega, MD FAAEM

The State Perspective

Recently, in Pennsylvania, the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) fund was raided to help balance the state budget. Mcare was created in 2002 as a special fund within the State Treasury to pay damages awarded in medical liability actions in excess of required basic insurance coverage.¹ The money in this fund comes from special assessments on physicians and other health care providers. By vote of the Pennsylvania legislature, despite many protests from providers and physician organizations, \$100 million was diverted from this fund to balance the state budget.

Issues like this are certainly not unique to Pennsylvania. In Michigan, legislators recently considered an unfair "doctor tax" on physician revenues (see page 15 for details). At the same time, the American Board of Physician Specialties (ABPS) has mounted a multi-state campaign to have physicians without emergency medicine residency training recognized as board certified in emergency medicine. A multitude of other issues requiring physician advocacy exist in various states. To help draw additional attention to these state-based issues, *Common Sense* will be featuring regular articles from its state chapters.

Though national health care issues may garner a great deal of our interest, each of us must remain vigilant of the battles being played out in our home states. AAEM's members help to serve as the eyes and ears of the organization for local, state and regional events affecting the practice of emergency medicine. With early notice from members about potential issues, AAEM is better able to take quick action in support of the board certified specialist in emergency medicine.

1. Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error Fund. Pennsylvania Insurance Department, 1 Mar. 2008. <http://www.mcare.state.pa.us/mclf/lib/mclf/about_mc当地_3.1.08.pdf>. Accessed Dec. 6, 2009.



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AAEM Mission Statement

The American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM) is the specialty society of emergency medicine. AAEM is a democratic organization committed to the following principles:

1. Every individual should have unencumbered access to quality emergency care provided by a specialist in emergency medicine.
2. The practice of emergency medicine is best conducted by a specialist in emergency medicine.
3. A specialist in emergency medicine is a physician who has achieved, through personal dedication and sacrifice, certification by either the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) or the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine (AOBEM).
4. The personal and professional welfare of the individual specialist in emergency medicine is a primary concern to the AAEM.
5. The Academy supports fair and equitable practice environments necessary to allow the specialist in emergency medicine to deliver the highest quality of patient care. Such an environment includes provisions for due process and the absence of restrictive covenants.
6. The Academy supports residency programs and graduate medical education, which are essential to the continued enrichment of emergency medicine, and to ensure a high quality of care for the patients.
7. The Academy is committed to providing affordable high quality continuing medical education in emergency medicine for its members.
8. The Academy supports the establishment and recognition of emergency medicine internationally as an independent specialty and is committed to its role in the advancement of emergency medicine worldwide.

Membership Information

Fellow and Full Voting Member: \$365 (Must be ABEM or AOBEM certified in EM or Pediatric EM)

*Associate Member: \$250

Emeritus Member: \$250 (Must be 65 years old and a full voting member in good standing for 3 years)

Affiliate Member: \$365 (Non-voting status; must have been, but are no longer ABEM or AOBEM certified in EM)

International Member: \$150 (Non-voting status)

AAEM/RSA Member: \$50 (voting in AAEM/RSA elections only)

Student Member: \$50 (voting in AAEM/RSA elections only)

*Associate membership is limited to graduates of an ACGME or AOA approved Emergency Medicine Program.

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