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### **AAEM Forms Alliance with Doctors Council SEIU to Confront Emergency Medicine Crisis**

Milwaukee, WI, July 15, 2025 — The American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM) today announced a new alliance with [Doctors Council](#), a union of attending physicians affiliated with the [Service Employees International Union](#) (SEIU), as part of its broader effort to offer emergency physicians tools to confront the growing crisis facing the specialty.

Emergency physicians are being pushed to the breaking point as they face corporate control over medical decisions, unsafe staffing models, and the erosion of due process, all while bearing the weight of an increasingly strained healthcare system. This alliance brings together two organizations committed to defending the integrity of physician-led care and restoring the voices of frontline doctors.

"This is about protecting the work we do and the patients we serve," said Robert Frolichstein, MD FAAEM, President of AAEM. "Too often, decisions about emergency care are made without input from the physicians actually providing it. This alliance may provide some emergency physician groups a stronger voice and a better chance at real change."

This partnership comes at a time when more than 75% of U.S. physicians are employed by hospitals or corporate entities. That shift has increased the demand for legal protections, fair treatment, and a collective voice in decisions that affect patient care and physician well-being.

Doctors Council SEIU brings more than five decades of experience successfully organizing attending physicians across a wide range of academic, nonprofit, and public health systems nationwide. The union currently represents physicians in two of the three largest public hospital systems in the United States, including New York City and Chicago.

"This partnership is an exciting and essential response to the growing concern among physicians," said Dr. Frances Quee, President of Doctors Council SEIU and a practicing pediatrician in the Bronx. "Our profession has become increasingly subject to corporate priorities. But there is no limit to what we can accomplish when physicians stand together."

AAEM and Doctors Council are ready to stand with physicians who want to take action—offering tools, knowledge, and support for those who feel this approach aligns with their needs and circumstances. For more information, please contact [info@aaem.org](mailto:info@aaem.org).

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The American Academy of Emergency Medicine (AAEM) is the specialty society of emergency medicine and the champion of the emergency physician. AAEM was established in 1993 to promote fair and equitable practice environments necessary to allow emergency physicians to deliver the highest quality of patient care. Our guiding values are embodied in our [mission and vision statements](#).