

Western Journal of Emergency Medicine

Volume 7, Issue 3

2006

Article 6

CaIAAEM Legislative Report- Summer 2006

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Suggested Citation:

Michael J. Buchele (2006) "CalAAEM Legislative Report- Summer 2006", *Western Journal of Emergency Medicine*: Vol. 7: No. 3, Article 6.
<http://repositories.cdlib.org/uciem/westjem/vol7/iss3/art6>

CALAAEM Legislative Report-Summer 2006

(Note: Information on all mentioned bills and propositions can be found at www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html)

CalAAEM continues to work with Cal/ACEP, and particularly the GAC (Government Affairs Committee), to monitor ongoing legislation progressing through the legislature in Sacramento. I would like to recognize the efforts of the very politically astute Myles Riner, M.D. Dr. Riner is a long-time member of the GAC committee and the new president of Cal/ACEP, and I expect him to continue to be very active in using his new position to try to influence legislation that benefits our patients and helps to keep emergency departments open and able to serve. He is a partner in a democratic emergency physician group and generally supports the overall values of AAEM and CalAAEM.

On another topic, unfortunately (for me) the day and time of the monthly GAC meetings has changed to conflict with my own emergency department's monthly meeting, making it impossible for me to attend the GAC meetings. Therefore, if there is a CalAAEM member interested in monitoring legislation that affects emergency medicine, and who would be available to attend the monthly phone conference GAC meeting (now meeting each second Thursday at 10 AM, lasting about an hour), please let our CalAAEM President Steve Gabaeff know, and we will be glad to add you as the CalAAEM representative to this meeting.

That being said, here is the latest round-up of legislation being monitored by the GAC committee and that is pertinent to emergency medicine. It should be noted that due to ongoing issues (such as state budget restrictions, upcoming state and national elections, etc.), many legislators are in a "static mode" and are trying to avoid controversial issues that might affect their upcoming election battles.

(Note that on GAC committee monitored legislation, the options are to "support," to "oppose," to "watch" until further information is available (i.e., amendments to the bill, comments from other groups, etc.), or to remain "neutral" (on bills that other groups request emergency medicine to support, or oppose, but in which there is no clear benefit to emergency medicine to taking a position either way, based on available information).

CAL/ACEP Sponsored Legislation:

- SB 1277 (Alquist)- Emergency services and care: reimbursement--now in Assembly Health Committee 6/27/06
- SB 1773 (Alarcon)- Fines and forfeitures--In Assembly, hasn't been referred to a committee
- SB 1823(Dunn) – Health Plan Penalties/Health care service plans: claim reimbursement- Failed passage; strategy is to continue promoting this idea, but in the budget sub-committees rather than in legislation

CAL/ACEP Monitored Legislation:

- 1. Universal Health Care, Access
 - a. AB 1952 (Nation)-Essential Health Benefits Program- WATCH
 - b. AB 2010 (Plescia)- Income Tax: Health Savings Account- SUPPORT
 - c. AB 2377 (Chan)- Health Care Coverage- WATCH
 - d. AB 2450 (Richman)- Cal-Health Program- WATCH
 - e. AB 2737 (Nakanishi)-Income and Corporation Taxes-Credit: Health Savings- SUPPORT (Discussion was brought up that this does not do anything to enhance emergency medicine, but CAL/ACEP is in support of conformity to federal regulations)
 - f. SB 840 (Kuehl)- Single Payer- SUPPORT
 - g. SB 1414 (Migden)- Fair Share Health Care Act- WATCH
 - h. SB 1584 (Runner)- Income Tax: Health Care Savings Account- SUPPORT
 - i. SB 1672 (Maldonado)- Public Health: Health Care Technology Systems: Tax- SUPPORT
- 2. Miscellaneous Legislation:
 - a. AB 1994 (Leslie)- Health Records: Minors: Access-SUPPORT
 - b. AB 2212 (Torricco)- Health Facilities-SUPPORT
 - c. AB 2340 (Harman)- Health Care Decisions-OPPOSE UNLESS AMENDED (to carve out emergency care)
 - d. SB 1804 (Florez)- Health Care: Product Database-SUPPORT
 - e. AB 2521 (Jones) (Injury and Violence Prevention Legislation)-- SUPPORT
 - f. AB 352 (Koretz) Firearms: micro-stamping (Gun Control)--Governor has given no indication how he feels on this- WATCH
 - g. AB 2755 (Blakeslee) Minimum age for riding ATVs-SUPPORT.

Please refer to the website: <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.htm> for details about the above bills. If you believe that the GAC committee decision (to support or oppose) is incorrect, feel free to let us know your thoughts at calaaem@aaem.org and we will forward them on to the GAC committee for their input.

My thanks to the GAC, Cal/ACEP, Myles Riner, and Cal/ACEP lobbyist Jim Randlett, for their contributions to the above report.

Respectfully submitted,

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