

*NAEMSO 2007 Mid-Year Meeting  
Advocates for EMS Washington Update*



# *Cornerstone Government Affairs*

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## Mission

A voice in Washington for EMS. Educate decision makers regarding the functions and needs of EMS systems.

Seek increased Federal support for *all components* of EMS, whether fire-based, private, third service or volunteer.

# Advocates Structure

- Umbrella organization.
- Leadership provided by Board of Directors, with input and support of member organization representatives.
- Lobbying support provided by Cornerstone Government Affairs.
- Raise awareness of EMS issues in Congress and Executive agencies.
- Focus on specific Federal legislation or program funding.

# Advocates Structure

- Coordinate message, legislative proposals, and targeting of Congressional members and committees.
- Monthly calls with Board and general membership
- Website posting of issue papers, reports, action alerts, supplemented by email communication on issues.
- Collaborate with other member organization lobbying firms.

# Overview

## ■ Accomplishments

- Federal Interagency Committee on EMS
- Homeland Security funding
- NHTSA EMS funding - NEMESIS
- HHS funding
- Formation of Potential EMS Caucus
- Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act
- ◆ Future Activities

# Organizational Sponsors

## Board of Directors

National Association of EMS Physicians  
National Association of State EMS Officials  
National Association of EMTs  
National Association of EMS Educators

## Benefactor Founding Member

GM OnStar  
Medtronic

## Organizational Members

American College of Emergency Physicians  
American Ambulance Association  
American College of Surgeons  
American Heart Association  
American Medical Response  
Association for Air Medical Services

## Organizational Members (cont.)

Brain Trauma Foundation  
COMCARE Alliance  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Gold Cross/Mayo Medical Transport  
Idaho EMS Bureau  
ImageTrend  
Med-Media, Inc.  
Minnesota EMS Regulatory  
Missouri Emergency Medical Service Assn  
National Academies of Emergency Dispatch  
National Registry of EMT  
National Council of State EMS Training  
Coordinators  
Rural/Metro Corporation

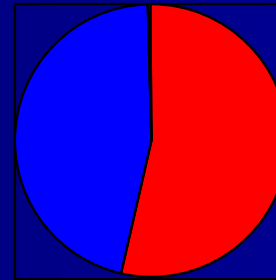
# What Happened in the November Elections

- Democrats succeeded in “nationalizing” the election on issues such as:
  - Iraq
  - Corruption: Federal and State
  - Deficits and Spending
  - “Things aren’t going in the right direction”
- Republicans, with damaged incumbents, weak candidates, national trends and some poorly run campaigns, did not counter the trends or the quality Democrat candidates/campaigns in the races they lost.

# Election Results in the House:

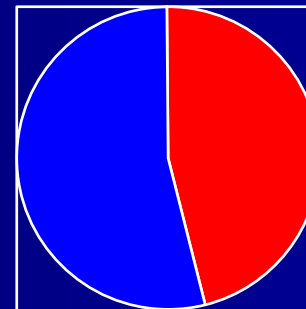
- 109<sup>th</sup> Congress:
  - 24 seat margin for Rs
    - 231 (R) - 206 (D)
    - and 1 (I)

109th



- 110<sup>th</sup> Congress:
  - 27 seat margin for Ds
    - 204 (R) - 231 (D)

110th



# Election Results in the Senate:

– 109<sup>th</sup> Congress:

■ 55 (R) – 44 (D)  
and 1 (I)

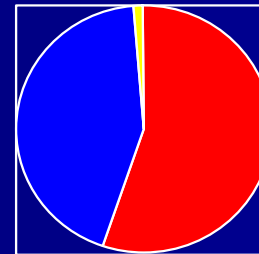
– 110<sup>th</sup> Congress:

■ 49 (R) – 49 (D)  
and 2 (I)

■ Independents will  
caucus with the  
Democrats

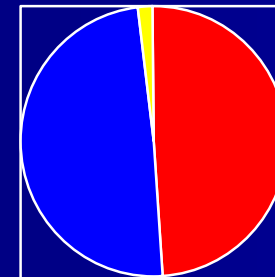
– Democrats won GOP  
Seats in (MO, MT,  
OH, PA, VA, & RI)

109th



■ Republican  
■ Democrat  
■ Independent

110th



■ Republican  
■ Democrat  
■ Independent

# House Democratic Agenda for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress

- Changes to Medicare Part D
- Medicaid – expand to cover more of the uninsured
- Patients Bill of Rights, FamilyCARE Act
- Prescription Drug User Fee Act and Medical Device User Fee Act (must pass reauthorizations)

# Senate Democratic Agenda for the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress

- Medicare Reform
- Medicaid -- expand to cover more of the uninsured
- Stem Cell Research
- Changes to Medicare Part D

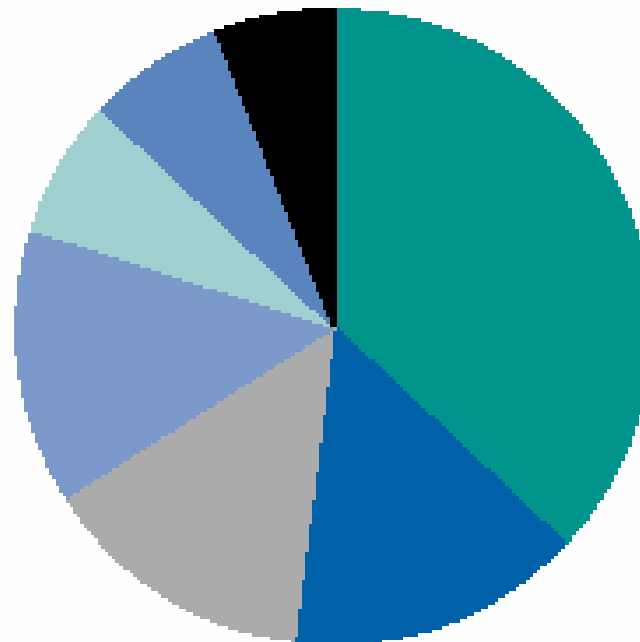
# Advocates for EMS' Top Priorities for FY 2008

- 1) National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS)
- 2) DHS First Responder Funding
- 3) Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

# CDC Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant

## PHHSBG Funding by Health Programs

EMS  
injuries



# 16 States Use Their Prevent Block Dollars for EMS

California	Montana
Connecticut	Nebraska
Georgia	New Jersey
Iowa	New Mexico
Louisiana	Oregon
Massachusetts	Vermont
Michigan	Wisconsin
Missouri	Wyoming

The House Labor-HHS Subcommittee mark included \$109 million for the Prevent Block in the FY 08 version of the bill – a \$10 million increase over FY 07.

# FY 08 House Labor-HHS Subcommittee- Passed Funding Levels

Rural and Community Access to AEDs	\$1.5 million	- level funded
Trauma Program	\$0.0	- same as FY 07
EMS for Children	\$19.8	- level funded
Traumatic Brain Injury	\$8.9	- level funded
Rural Outreach Grants	\$53.0	- \$14.1 million increase
Rural Hospital Flex Grants	\$63.5	- level funded
Poison Control	\$30.1	- \$ 7 million increase
Prevent Block	\$109	- \$10 million increase

# Department of Transportation

	<b>2007 Funding</b>	<b>2008 POTUS Request</b>	<b>2008 POTUS NEMESIS Request</b>	<b>2008 AEMS Request</b>
EMS Division	\$2,300,000	\$2.32 million	\$250,000	\$5,320,000

# Department of Transportation

## National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS)

*In FY 2006 AEMS successfully advocated for an additional \$1,000,000 under the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA) appropriation to continue development of the NEMSIS.*

With \$1,000,000 in FY 06, NHTSA worked towards initial implementation of the national EMS database, operation of a NEMSIS National Resources Center and limited funding support to state EMS information systems to assist with EMS data collection and analysis. Four states submitted data in 2006. Those states include Minnesota, North Carolina, New Hampshire and Mississippi.

## Department of Transportation (cont.)

- Advocates was successful in securing \$2 million in the Senate version of the FY 07 Transportation Appropriations for the National Emergency Medical Services Information System.
- Unfortunately Congress will passed a CR that funded all programs at the FY 2006 level. NHTSA has pulled together enough funding to continue NEMSIS through September.

## NEMSIS (Cont.)

What Advocates worked for in the FY 08  
Transportation Appropriations Bill:

\$500,000 for implementation of a national EMS  
database by the National Center for Statistics and  
Analysis (NCSA) at NHTSA;

\$1,000,000 for a NEMSIS Technical Assistance Centers,

\$1,500,000 in funding to support state EMS offices with  
EMS data collection and analysis to be allocated  
through the NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center.

# Homeland Security Funding

While state and local EMS agencies are eligible for first responder grant funding, beginning in 2003 Advocates worked with Congress to increase the portion of first responder funds used for EMS.

- While state and local EMS agencies are eligible to receive funding under the Homeland Security and Fire Grant programs, experience indicates that EMS is too often overshadowed by the needs of other first responder organizations and little funding is being allocated to state and local EMS.
- Originally proposed a \$500 million dedicated EMS at DHS/ ODP similar to police and fire.

## Homeland Security Funding (cont.)

- Congress rejected the proposal due in part to lack of information and data.
- Advocates regrouped and sought reporting of EMS expenditures, and focused on seeking additional funding for NEMSIS.
- According to DHS, EMS continue to receive less than 4% of the \$3.7 billion in funding available in FY 2002, 2003 and 2004 from programs where EMS is eligible to receive first responder funding.

## Homeland Security Funding (cont.)

- In the House version of the FY 2007 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill the measure included report language that stated that :
- The Committee directive required the Office of Grants and Training at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to include in its grant guidance that State and local governments include EMS representatives in planning committees as an equal partner and to facilitate a nationwide EMS needs assessment.
- No later than January 16, 2007, the Department is to report to the House Committee on Appropriations and the House Committee on Homeland Security on the use of State and local, urban area security initiative, and firefighter assistance grant funds for EMS.

## Homeland Security Funding (cont.)

- The House passed the FY 08 Homeland Security Appropriations bill

### *Emergency Medical Services*

- The Committee supports the Department's efforts to complete capability assessments for emergency medical service (EMS) providers, but remains concerned that current funding levels for the EMS community for training and equipment for disaster preparedness may be insufficient to meet capability requirements.

## Homeland Security Funding (cont.)

- The Committee directs FEMA, in conjunction with the Office of Health Affairs, to report to the Committee no later than January 23, 2008, on the current state of disaster preparedness capabilities of emergency medical services and the capabilities required to meet future preparedness goals. This report shall include an analysis of the gap between current and target capabilities. The Committee further directs FEMA, in conjunction with the Office of Health Affairs, to review the amount of first responder grant funding emergency medical service providers are currently receiving and evaluate whether these funding levels are sufficient to meet capability requirements for disaster preparedness.

## Homeland Security Funding (cont.)

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## Homeland Security Funding (cont.)

- The Committee previously directed the Grants and Training office, whose functions are now in FEMA, to report no later than January 23, 2007, to the Committees on Appropriations, the House Committee on Homeland Security and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, on the use of Homeland Security Grant Program funds and the Firefighter Assistance Grant funds for EMS. The Committee has yet to receive this report.

# Appropriations Process – Where Are We Now?

- The House has pulled all appropriations bills minus DHS and Military Construction to put in earmarks. This has slowed down the process dramatically.
- The House Labor-HHS bill has passed Subcommittee but will not be considered by the full Appropriations Committee until the week of July 9<sup>th</sup>. This could be delayed even further if other bills that will be considered before it move at a slow pace.
- The Department of Transportation Appropriations bill will not be considered until mid-late July.

# Appropriations Process – Where Are We Now?

- The Senate Appropriations Committee has passed out the DHS Appropriations Bill. However, they are not releasing their report until this week.
- The House Labor-HHS bill will be considered before the Subcommittee today and the full Appropriations Committee on Thursday.

# EMS Caucus

Advocates has been working to establish an EMS Caucus on Capitol Hill.

We have secured two Democratic Co-Chairs and are seeking a Republican Co-Chair.

Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger (D-MD)

Congressman Tim Walz (D-MN)

# IOM Reports

- The House Ways & Means Committee and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee held hearings on the IOM reports on Emergency Care.
- The Committees focused on the issue of boarding, ED overcrowding and uncompensated care.
- This Friday Morning, the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee will hold a hearing on the implementation of the IOM's recommendations.
- Bob O'Connor will testify at the hearing on behalf of Advocates for EMS.

## Advocates in 2007

- Continue to recruit individual and organizational members to assist with educating Congressional members and staff about the EMS mission and needs;
- Continue to strengthen relationships with Federal officials with EMS oversight such as HHS, DHS and NHTSA;
- Continue work towards the formation of a Congressional EMS Caucus (identifying co-chairs and members to join the Caucus)

## Advocates in 2007

- Continue to promote the EMS message and recruit more EMS community representatives to the advocacy to cause to ensure that EMS is included in important Federal and state level policy decisions on an equal basis with police and fire;
- Advocating for increased funding to support EMS system infrastructure and terrorism/disaster response; and
- Continue efforts to have a robust national EMS data collection, reporting and analysis system.

# How AEMS Can Help You

Visit [www.AdvocatesForEMS.org](http://www.AdvocatesForEMS.org) to:

- Learn the EMS issues and specific requests
- Identify your Congressman or Senator
- Get guidance on how to do an effective office visit
- Download issue papers to use in office visits
- Download scripts for phone calls