

Report to the ACEP Council

The National Emergency Medicine Political Action Committee (NEMPAC)

and

Grassroots Advocacy

October 2023



NEMPAC

NEMPAC celebrates more than 40 years of success in 2023. A small, forward-thinking group of ACEP members founded NEMPAC back in 1980 to help ACEP promote our legislative goals and express the concerns of emergency medicine to members of Congress. Back then, the founders determined they would need to raise \$10,000 to have influence on the issue of independent contractor status for emergency physicians. Today, due to the increased costs of running for office and the many issues of importance to the specialty that ACEP can influence in Congress, our goal is to raise more than \$1 million annually. For the past ten years, this goal has been closely met and, in some years, exceeded, despite challenges that continue to confront the specialty.

Just like [the NEMPAC Board of Trustees](#) today, NEMPAC's founders were from all parts of the country and were "party" blind when it came to selecting candidates worthy of NEMPAC support. And just like today, NEMPAC is the only national PAC solely dedicated to representing our bi-partisan interests in our nation's capital.

Over the years, NEMPAC has opened doors, educated new and veteran lawmakers, and helped emergency medicine identify friends and champions in the U.S. Congress. This access created opportunities to express our well-reasoned viewpoints on the issues of the day for 40+ years. The past several years and election cycle have been particularly challenging as our nation emerges from the greatest public health crisis in decades and increasing political partisanship and volatility. Despite many challenges, NEMPAC remains one of the top five medical specialty PACs and continues to play a critical role in ACEP's federal advocacy efforts.

The Council Challenge has been in place for more than 25 years. Councilors collectively contribute more than \$250,000 annually to NEMPAC, which is more than one-quarter of our total raised annually. Each year during the Council Meeting, NEMPAC challenges all Councilors attending the meeting to support NEMPAC with the goal of reaching 100% participation.

2022 Election Cycle

In the 2022 election cycle, despite the challenges of emerging from a global pandemic, national political unrest and divisiveness, and economic and professional concerns unique to emergency medicine, NEMPAC raised \$1,751,328 and contributed more than \$1.6 million to candidates, party committees, leadership PACs, and independent expenditure campaigns. A complete report of NEMPAC's activities during the 2022 Election can be found [here](#). This report was mailed to all active ACEP members as an insert in the March 2023 issue of *ACEPNow*.

2024 Election Cycle

The NEMPAC federal candidate budget is developed and approved by the NEMPAC Board of Trustees with guidance of ACEP staff. It is subject to modifications as the election cycle progresses and the congressional agenda takes shape. The budget will be consistently evaluated to reflect NEMPAC's fundraising efforts in 2023 and 2024.

In the 2024 election cycle, the NEMPAC Board of Trustees adopted the following strategies which are continued from the 2022 cycle:

- Identify and assist candidates and incumbents who support ACEP's mission, vision, and values;
- Support candidates in both major political parties who will work to advance ACEP's issues or can influence positions important to the specialty of emergency medicine;
- Identify "Champions" of emergency medicine who would receive maximum funding for their re-election campaigns (\$10,000) and for the Leadership PACs (if applicable) of \$5000 per year, in addition to other benefits identified;
- Continue to fund independent expenditure campaigns as warranted with hard dollars;
- Authorize a minimum contribution (\$1000) to Senators and Representatives from the states and districts of members of the ACEP Board of Directors and the NEMPAC Board of Trustees. This strategy is designed to enhance the contacts between these two Boards and their Congressional representatives by giving the Board members the opportunity to attend virtual and local events for their Members of Congress;
- Prioritize check deliveries and attendance at in person by ACEP members ACEP leaders, Chapter leaders, and NEMPAC VIP Donors;

- Prioritize contribution to members of key congressional committees (House Ways and Means, House Energy and Commerce, Senate Finance and Senate HELP) utilizing NEMPAC donations and interactions due to NEMPAC to educate committee members, in particular those new to the committees.

Additional Evaluation Criteria

Candidates and incumbents who receive NEMPAC support are expected to exhibit behavior and actions consistent with the mission, vision and values of the American College of Emergency Physicians and uphold the principles of our democratic process and orderly governance. NEMPAC supported candidates should affirm science, evidence and fact in their words and actions.

The integrity and character of the candidate will be assessed on an ongoing basis and NEMPAC may consider ceasing contributions to a candidate or committee if credible, specific, and serious allegations about the candidate's behavior arise. NEMPAC also continues our commitment to inclusiveness and respect for diversity.

2024 election cycle evaluation criteria also follow past NEMPAC practice of focusing on a candidate's support of ACEP's key legislative and regulatory initiatives, co-sponsorship of ACEP legislation, committee assignment, leadership position, relationship to state chapter and/or local ACEP members, and difficulty of the re-election race as the basis for evaluating possible NEMPAC contributions.

The NEMPAC 2024 Election Cycle Guidelines and a complete list of candidates supported are available on the [NEMPAC website](#) and by request from ACEP staff.

NEMPAC 2023 Fundraising and Candidate Contribution Highlights to Date:

Amount Raised in 2022: \$900,000

Amount Raised in 2023 as of 9/7: \$462,407

Donations to Candidates: \$592,582 donated to candidates, leadership committees, party committees, and independent expenditures/SuperPACs as of 9/7.

Party Breakdown: 53% to Republicans and 47% to Democrats

See the [NEMPAC website](#) for specifics.

We carried over \$451,380 in hard dollars from the previous election cycle, so have a balance of \$285,002 as of this report dated September 7.

Other Highlights:

Co-host of the "House Call on the Mall" event with NRCC and multiple physician specialty organizations – donating \$15K for access to party and committee leaders along with many members of the GOP Doctors Caucus.

Continued support of the Healthcare Freedom SuperPAC organized in 2022 to help elect republican physicians, run by former and current physician members of congress including Drs. Roe, Harris, Burgess and Wenstrup – NEMPAC is one of the inaugural donors.

Educating ACEP members about running for office and physicians and congressional champions currently in office through articles in ACEPNow, monthly NEMPAC Pulse newsletter and on the ACEP/NEMPAC website.

Developed the 2022 NEMPAC Election Report for distribution in March of 2023 as an insert in ACEPNow.

ACEP co- hosts annually and serves on the planning committee of the Physician PAC Forum and the Specialty Physician Candidate Forum.

As of early September, DC staff and ACEP members attended nearly 400 fundraisers and meet and greets for incumbents and candidates running in the 2024 election cycle with about 15% attended in person by ACEP members. Twenty percent of these events were hosted or co-hosted by NEMPAC/ACEP. Each event is an opportunity to discuss the concerns of emergency medicine and legislative solutions.

2023 Dine-arounds at LAC23: Rep. Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN) and Rep. John Joyce, MD (R-PA) who were also our special guests at the NEMPAC VIP reception. Other events during LAC sponsored by NEMPAC where individual ACEP members attended were for Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Sen. Gary Peters (D-MI), Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD), Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Sen. Jackie Rosen (D-NV) and Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO).

The 911 Legislative Network

Along with NEMPAC, the 911 Legislative Network plays a significant role in promoting ACEP's legislative agenda to Congress. When ACEP recognized that it was competing for federal legislators' time and attention in an environment burgeoning with important legislative issues, ACEP's Federal Government Affairs Committee and the Board of Directors voted to create a technically sophisticated grassroots network. Launched in April 1998, the 911 Legislative Network encourages ACEP members to cultivate relationships with their federal legislators for long term, ongoing lobbying, and educational efforts. The goal is to have emergency physicians across the country available as resources and healthcare issue experts for federal legislators. As "citizen lobbyists," 911 Network members carry ACEP's concerns directly to policy makers and staff to explain how legislation or regulation affects medical care provided in an emergency department. ACEP provides the tools and the training to help 911 Legislative Network members effectively communicate with their legislators.

We have been kick starting our grassroots advocacy with ACEP members and federal legislators and staff both quantitatively and qualitatively in the past year. Over 6,000 ACEP members including Residents are actively engaged in our 911 Grassroots Advocacy and we continue to grow our "grasstops" program through our ACEP Advocacy Leaders Program. Advocacy Leaders receive specialized training and communications from our DC staff to help them develop long-term productive relationships with members of congress and their staff.

We have a robust [ACEP Advocacy Action Center](#) where you can find active action alerts, information about your legislators and access to the ACEP 911 Weekly Update.

LAC23 resulted in 405 emergency physicians from 46 states participating in 298 meetings on Capitol Hill with federal legislators and/or their healthcare staff. We covered 207 House offices and 91 Senate offices.

911 Network Member of the Year

Each year, a "911 Network Member of the Year" is selected from among the most active advocates in the Network based on an accrued point system which includes attending events, hosting ED visits, responding to action alerts, and recruiting new members to the Network.

2023 Member of the Year: Bradley J. Uren, MD, FACEP

As Chair of the ACEP Federal Government Affairs Committee, a member of the NEMPAC Board of Trustees, and inaugural member of the ACEP Advocacy Leaders program, Dr. Uren is a leader in the development and advocacy of sound legislative policy on behalf of emergency physicians and patients. Dr. Uren is a frequent visitor to legislative offices in Lansing, Michigan and Washington, DC. He has testified before the Michigan Legislature on issues affecting public health and has authored opinion pieces and given media interviews on issues such as impaired driving, cardiac arrest, and injury prevention. He has worked with the State of Michigan on Medicaid patient access to emergency departments and was instrumental in the establishment of MEDIC, a Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan collaborative to improve emergency department care.

His mission to educate and empower medical students and residents at the University of Michigan Medical School in health policy and political engagement has brought a new generation of emerging leaders and advocates into medicine.

ACEP ED Visit Program for Legislators

We have revived our **Emergency Department Visit Program**, which had been on hiatus due to the pandemic, where ACEP Advocacy Leaders invite legislators and/or their staff to tour emergency departments in their communities. We are finding that the current August Congressional Recess has provided some excellent opportunities to highlight the boarding crisis through these visits in anticipation of our Boarding Summit in September. Legislators receive an up-close look at the challenges our members face every day in providing care to their constituents. Showing elected officials and their staff the people, places, and health care delivery system that their legislation impacts helps to build long-term meaningful relationships, distinguish our members, patients, and issues from other specialties, and establish emergency physicians as health care experts in their communities.

ED visits that have taken place already this year include:

- Ryan Reece, MD, FACEP hosted Rep. Dan Kildee (D-MI-08)

- Christina Millhouse, MD, FACEP hosted Rep. William Timmons (R-SC-04)
- Thomas Bernard, MD, FACEP hosted Rep. Deborah Ross (D-NC-02)
- Nathaniel Schlicher, MD, JD, MBA, FACEP hosted Rep. Derek Kilmer (D-WA-06)
- Heidi Knowles, MD, FACEP hosted Rep. Beth Van Duyne (R-TX-24)
- Ryan Shanahan, MD, FACEP hosted Rep. Julia Brownley (D-CA-26)
- Blake Buchanan, MD, FACEP hosted staff for Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Rep. Laurel Lee (R-FL-15)
- Jeffrey Goodloe, MD, FACEP hosted Rep. Kevin Hern (R-OK-01)
- Stephen Wolf, MD and Anna Engeln, MD, FACEP hosted staff for Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO)
- Sara Chakel, MD, FACEP hosted Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI-12)
- Kathryn Groner, MD, FACEP hosted Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE)
- Mark Baker, MD, FACEP hosted Rep. Ed Case (D-HI)
- Valerie Norton, MD, FACEP hosted staff of Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA).

Many additional visits are in the process of being scheduled.

Our DC staff helps in setting up the visits, including scheduling, providing talking points and tips on coordinating the visit with hospital staff and administration, and pre-visit calls to prep the hosting physicians. We plan to hold a panel discussion at LAC with several of the visit hosts sharing their experiences and anticipate an upcoming article in *ACEPNow* to highlight this program.

You can join the 911 Network here: <https://www.acep.org/federal-advocacy/federal-advocacy-overview/911grassrootsadvocacy/>

NEMPAC and the 911 Legislative Network help promote the specialty of emergency medicine. We thank the Council for your past support and encourage all Councilors to contribute to NEMPAC and sign up for the 911 Legislative Network. Your participation will help ensure the future of our specialty and our patients.