

# ICEP Shift

Illinois College of Emergency Physicians Advocacy Newsletter

[www.icep.org](http://www.icep.org)



With ICEP's dedication to enhancing membership value and communication, comes a new electronic publication focusing on all things advocacy called ICEP Shift.

This publication will include updates on state and federal issues, alerts to take action, announcements, and other related information to keep you informed.

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## Take Action!

### Urge Congress to Reverse Medicare Physician Pay Cuts

On January 1, Medicare physician reimbursements were cut by 3.4%. As Congress returns to Washington, D.C. to resume legislative business, [legislators need to hear directly from you](#) as an emergency physician on the front lines of our health care system that these cuts must be reversed as soon as possible.

The bipartisan "Preserving Seniors' Access to Physicians Act of 2023" (H.R. 6683), introduced by Reps. Greg Murphy, MD (R-NC), Danny Davis (D-IL), Brad Wenstrup, DPM (R-OH), Jimmy Panetta (D-CA), Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN), and Michael Burgess, MD (R-TX), represents a critical opportunity to fully eliminate these harmful cuts.

As ACEP continues to work with Congress to identify policy solutions that will provide long-term stability for Medicare beneficiaries and the physicians who provide their care, we need Congress to reverse these cuts now so that patient access to life-saving care is not threatened. Urge your U.S. Representative to cosponsor H.R. 6683, the "Preserving Seniors' Access to Physicians Act of 2023."

[Contact Congress](#)

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## Meeting with Illinois Department of Federal and Professional Regulation

Elisabeth Giblin, MD and Will Sharp, MD, PhD, FACEP, ICEP Patient and Physician Advocacy Committee Co-Chairs, along with Bailey McMurray, ICEP Executive Director, and lobbying firm, [Mercury-Illinois](#), met with key members of the Illinois Department of Federal and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) virtually on January 12, 2024.

Dr. Giblin and Dr. Sharp highlighted ICEP's key initiatives: boarding/crowding, scope of practice, violence in the emergency department, and reimbursement. The meeting shed light on the

important issues emergency physicians face on a daily basis and emphasized the importance of collaboration with IDFPR.

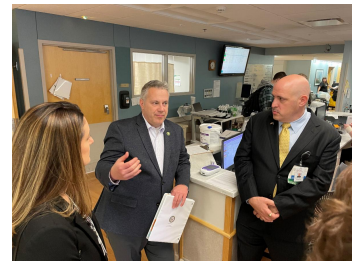
If there are any issues you are passionate about or face as an emergency physician, [please share with us!](#)

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## Congressional Visit in Bloomington, Illinois

On Friday, January 26, 2024, Congressman Eric Sorensen (IL-17) and Rachael Lund visited with Howie Mell, MD, MPH, CPE, FACEP, ICEP President and Julie Lewis, MD, fellow ICEP member, at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington, Illinois. Issues shared include:

- Increasing Physician's Medicaid Reimbursement via CMS
- Improving Safety Measures
- Emergency Department Boarding



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## Share Your Boarding Stories!

It's time to take action on boarding in the ED, and ICEP will lead the way with a new legislative initiative. ***And you can help!***

We need personal stories of boarding which have affected you (or your colleague healthcare workers, including nurses, techs, and all the staff) in the ED. We don't need to have names (they definitely shouldn't have patient identifiers), but they should have detail.

***Your experiences*** matter to lawmakers! We need as many real-world stories and experiences as possible as we push to craft and pass legislation with real, meaningful change to improve our and patient lives in the ED.

Please note that your responses are completely *anonymous*. Any information shared that could be potentially identifying will be redacted and ensure you are protected.

[Share Your Boarding Story](#)

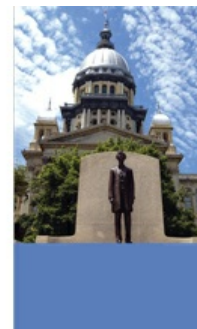
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 Illinois College  
of Emergency Physicians

# Advocacy Day

*in Springfield*



## **ICEP Advocacy Day**

April 11, 2024

Join fellow members, ICEP staff, and ICEP's lobbyists IN-PERSON April 11, 2024, in Springfield to meet with state legislators to lobby for emergency medicine issues.

There is no charge to attend ICEP Advocacy Day for ICEP members, but advanced registration is required, and space is limited.

[Register to Attend](#)

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## **Interested in getting involved in with ICEP as a volunteer?**

We are calling on ICEP members to join us to participate in our ICEP Advocacy Work Groups, led by the ICEP Patient and Physician Advocacy Committee.

[Sign Up Here](#)

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## **Do you know about EMPAC?**

The Emergency Medicine Political Action Committee of Illinois (EMPAC) has been a powerful vehicle for emergency medicine in Illinois since 1994.

EMPAC strives to improve emergency care for patients and communities by making contributions to candidates who run for statewide office, including state senators, representatives, governor, lieutenant governor, treasurer and Supreme Court justices.

[Learn More](#)

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## **ACEP Leadership & Advocacy Conference**

Join your fellow ICEP colleagues for ACEP's Leadership & Advocacy Conference ([LAC](#)), April 14-16 in Washington, DC, to celebrate emergency medicine's accomplishments and advocate in person for your specialty and your patients.

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## **What's Going on in the Illinois General Assembly (IGA)?**

- **HB 4472—Limiting Prescription Medication Costs:** Rep. Nabeela Syed (D-Palatine) and Sen. David Koehler (D-Peoria) introduced HB4472 on Jan. 17, which would create a board of healthcare experts with the power to set limits of prescription medication costs ([NPR](#)) ([HB4472 Status](#))
- **Committee Hearings:** The House and Senate held a joint hearing on the shortage of mental health professionals. Advocates testified about long wait times, low reimbursement rates, and administrative burdens. Another one is scheduled for February 23

## In the News

- 'Boarding' Patients for Days, Weeks in Crowded ERs Is Common Now ([Community Healthcare System](#))
- AHA Voices Support for the Safety from Violence for Healthcare Employees (SAVE) Act (H.R. 2584) ([AHA](#))
- In order to deal with overcrowding in Minnesota emergency rooms, a Short-Stay Observation Unit was built in Wisconsin and delivered by truck to St. John's Hospital ([Star Tribune](#))
- Healthcare Leaders Turn to New Screening Technology to Address Workplace Violence ([Business Wire](#))
- ARPA-H to create medical trucks for health care access in rural areas ([Medical Economics](#))

## Resources for You

- [ICEP Advocacy Website](#)
- [Illinois General Assembly](#)
- [Find Your Local Legislators](#)
- [ACEP Federal Advocacy](#)

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Questions? 630-495-6400 or reply directly to this email.