

MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER

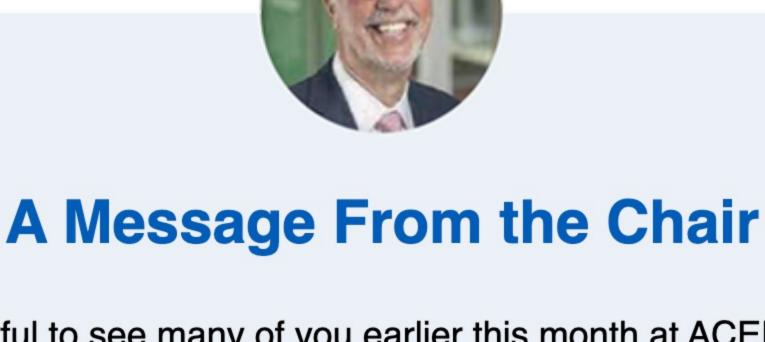
Message From the Chair

911 Network Member of the Year **Legislative Update**

NEMPAC at LAC

NEMPAC Board News

ACEP Advocacy Leaders Program



It was wonderful to see many of you earlier this month at ACEP's Leadership & Advocacy Conference (LAC) in Washington, DC! As we know, the actions of Congress can have a major effect on how we practice and

provide care to our patients as emergency physicians. Continuing to educate legislators through NEMPAC about emergency medicine and access for patients is critical to ACEP's advocacy on your behalf. I hope you saw the NEMPAC 2022 Election Report in the March edition of ACEPNow. Your support has allowed NEMPAC to elect friends and champions of emergency medicine who have helped us advance our

legislative priorities. But our work is far from over. Right now, we are all

feeling the stress of the patient boarding crisis in our emergency

departments. We have seen and heard compelling and often tragic stories as this crisis continues. You can learn more about ACEP's efforts on boarding and other critical issues in the legislative section below where you can also help by contacting your legislators. Together, our continued support of NEMPAC will ensure that we have the resources to fight for the future of the specialty and our patients. Now, more than ever, emergency physicians must be heard and be a part of the political process. We cannot step back from the process when so much is at stake – our patients depend on us in the emergency department and in

Thank you for continuing to advocate for our specialty and our patients. Please feel free to reach out to me anytime at nempacchair@acep.org. Peter Jacoby, MD, FACEP Chair, NEMPAC Board of Trustees

Legislative Update

Addressing the Boarding Crisis

reimbursements.

crisis, protecting EPs from workplace violence, and stabilizing Medicare

Earlier this month during ACEP's Leadership & Advocacy Conference

(LAC), 400 ACEP members from 46 states participated in 298 meetings

with federal legislators or their health care staff, sharing their unique and

vital perspective with Congress on three pressing issues: the boarding

Attendees conveyed how hospital emergency departments (EDs) have reached a breaking point due to the long-standing problem known as "boarding," where patients are held in the ED following stabilization and care awaiting an inpatient bed or space in a tertiary facility where they can be safely transferred. Noting there is no one-size-fits-all solution to the boarding crisis, legislators were urged to sign a bipartisan Dear Colleague letter urging the Administration to swiftly convene an Emergency Department Boarding Task Force with broad stakeholder

representation; and, to cosponsor S. 1346, the bipartisan "Improving

If you could not visit your legislators in person at LAC this year, you

Mental Health Access from the Emergency Department Act."

colleagues have been victims of violent acts while providing care. Twothirds of emergency physicians reported being physically assaulted within the last year, with 85% of emergency physicians saying that the

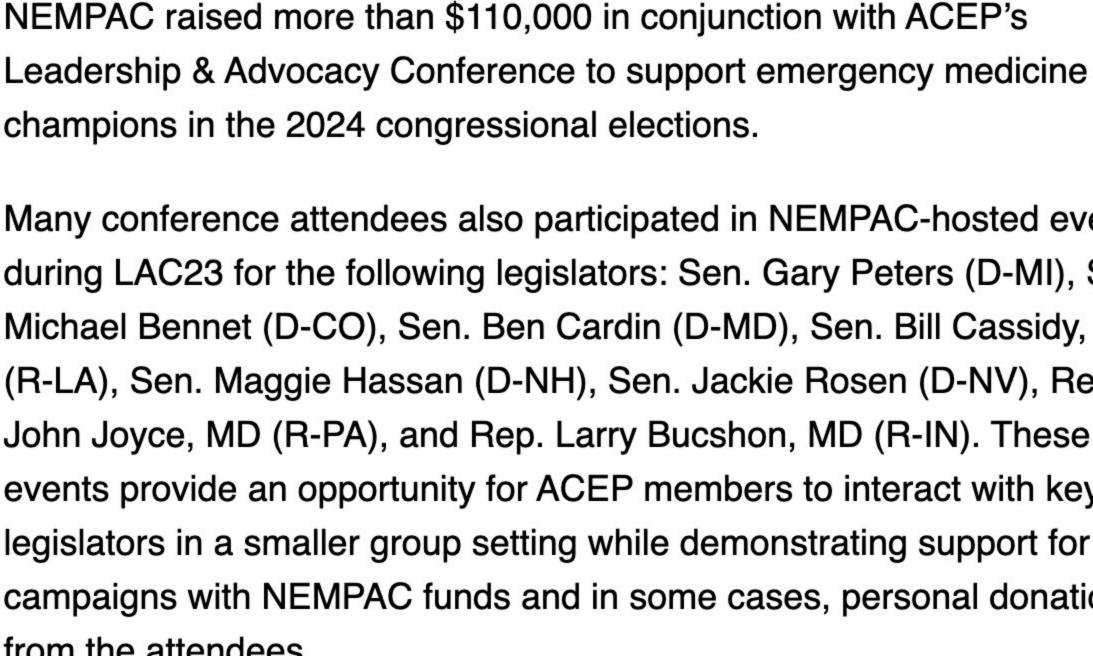
immediate physical threat to emergency physicians and other ED

personnel, workplace violence causes significant stress for health care

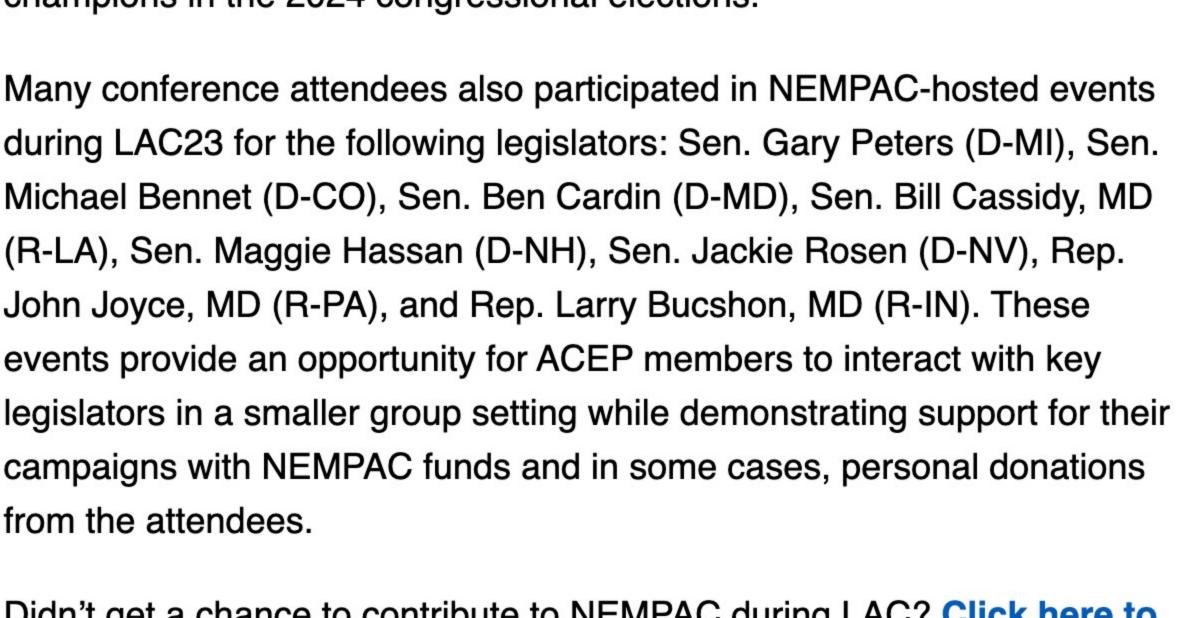
providers and patients seeking treatment in the ED and contributes to job

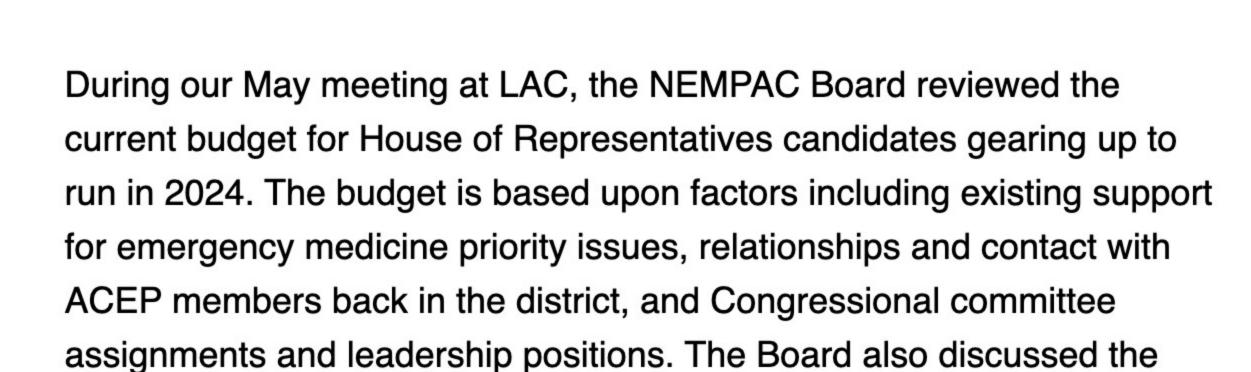
dissatisfaction and burnout. Legislators were urged to cosponsor bipartisan legislation to address this problem: the "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act" (H.R. 2663/S. 1176) and the "SAVE Act" (H.R. 2584). <u>Urge your Senators and Representative to cosponsor the</u> "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service **Workers Act.**" <u>Urge your U.S. Representative to cosponsor the "SAVE Act."</u> Stabilizing Medicare's Physician Payment System For decades, Medicare physician reimbursements have failed to keep up with inflation, despite other Medicare participants receiving annual inflationary updates. Attendees described how the yearly threat – and

<u>Urge your Representative to cosponsor the "Strengthening</u> **Medicare for Patients and Providers Act.**" Access additional information on all three issues.



Reception on Sunday, April 30.





issues that LAC attendees would be advocating for during the Capitol Hill

Visits with legislators as detailed above in the Legislative Update section.

The Board reviewed NEMPAC fundraising initiatives and noted that while

there are over 500 VIP donors, donations at the Platinum and

NEMPAC Board News

Affairs Committee, a member of the NEMPAC Board of Trustees, and inaugural member of the ACEP Advocacy Leaders program, Dr. Uren acts as both a leader and mentor in the development and advocacy of sound legislative policy. He is a frequent visitor to legislative offices in Lansing, Michigan and Washington, DC and has testified before the Michigan Legislature on a host of public health issues. 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. In addition, Dr. Uren has authored opinion pieces and given media interviews on impaired driving, cardiac arrest, and injury

Network is recognized at the Leadership

advocacy on behalf of emergency

physicians and patients.

and Advocacy Conference for outstanding

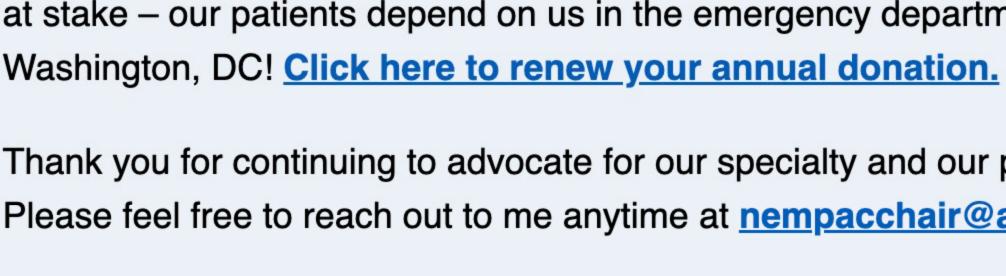
As Chair of the ACEP Federal Government

ACEP Advocacy Leaders Program

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



can still send a message to educate Congress about the boarding crisis and ask for their support. **Protecting Emergency Physicians from ED Violence** Attendees explained that violence in the emergency department is a serious and growing concern and shared personal stories of how they or rate of ED violence has increased within the last year. In addition to the

on the Medicare Economic Index (MEI).

implementation – of significant cuts to Medicare physician payments

continues to destabilize our nation's health care safety net. Legislators

were asked to provide much-needed stability to the Medicare system by

co-sponsoring and supporting the bipartisan "Strengthening Medicare

inflationary update in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) based

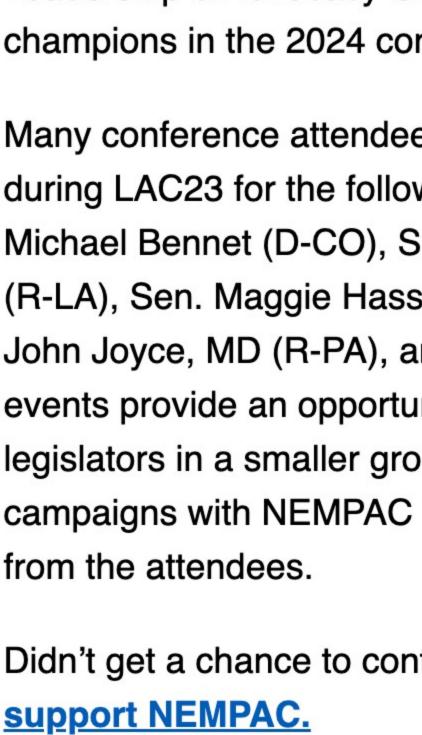
for Patients and Providers Act" (H.R. 2474), which will establish an

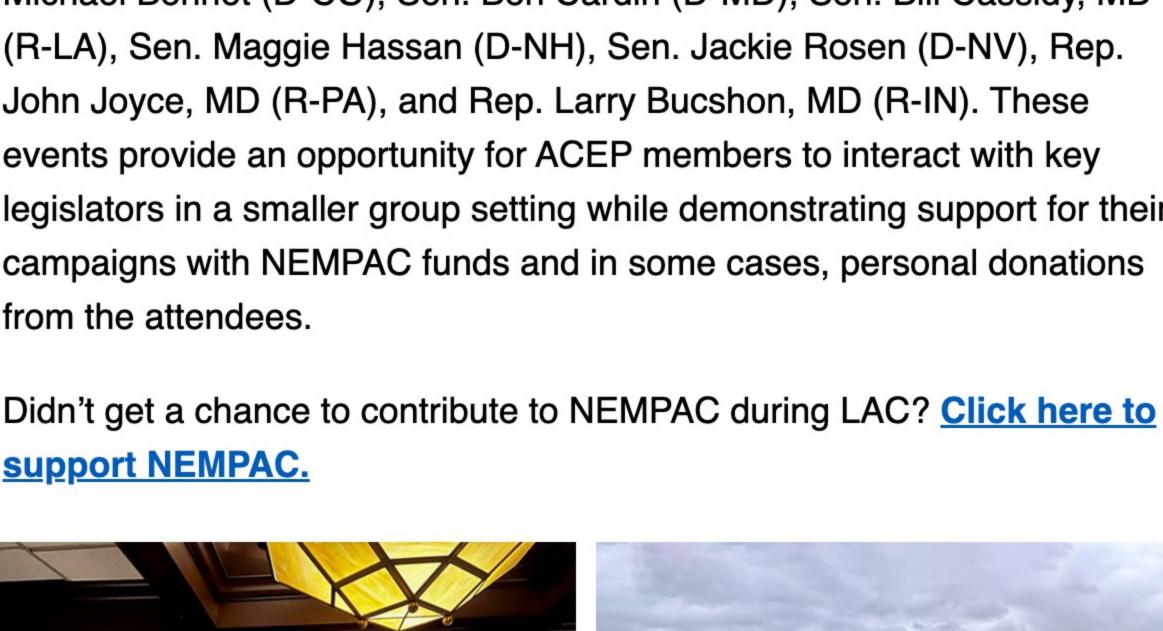
NEMPAC at LAC

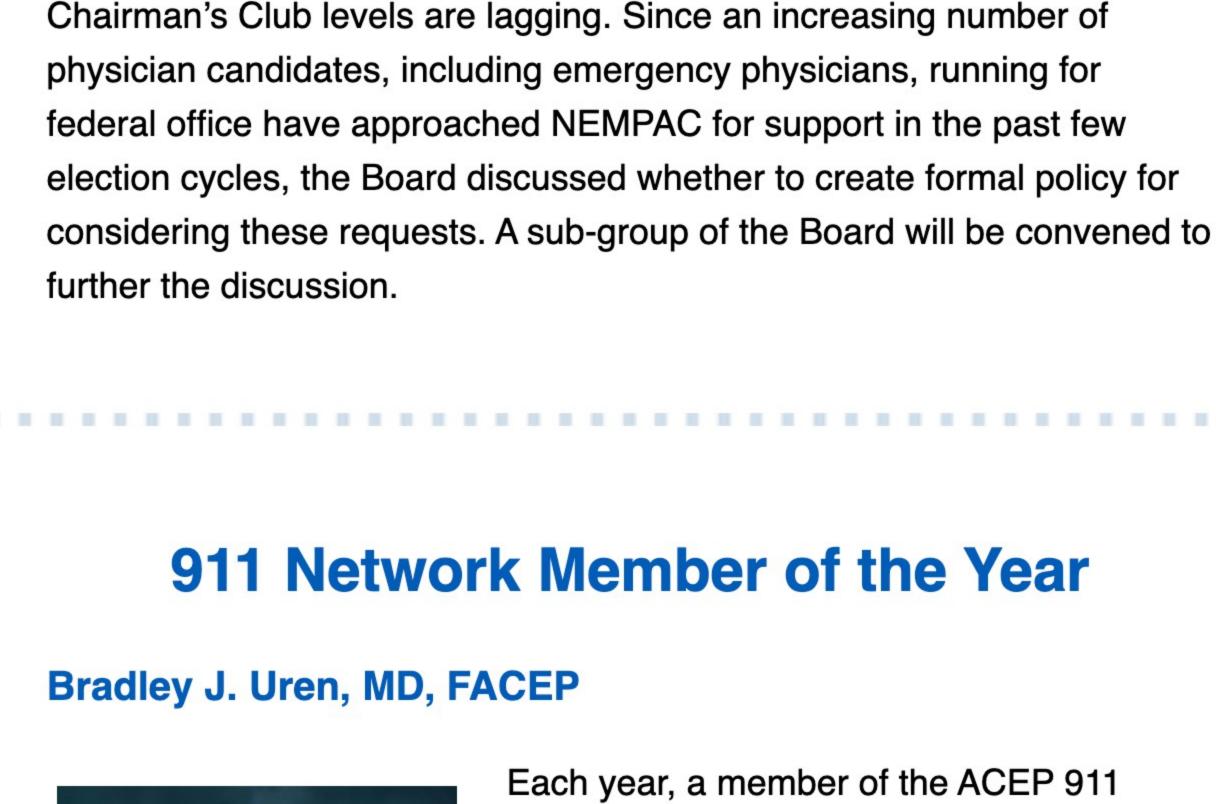
The NEMPAC Board of Trustees celebrated VIP donors at the NEMPAC

Special guests at the reception were physician members of Congress,

Rep. Larry Bucshon, MD (R-IN) and Rep. John Joyce, MD (R-PA).







prevention.

advocates into medicine.

Your annual NEMPAC contribution is an important demonstration of your commitment to advocacy on behalf of emergency medicine and patients. If you would like to be more involved, consider joining ACEP's Advocacy Leaders program. Complete this form to receive information about taking your engagement and advocacy with federal legislators and staff to the next level and opportunities to engage on issues critical to EM.

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