

Health Policy in Emergency Medicine (HPEM) Symposium & Advocacy Day

June 4-5, 2024 | Washington, D.C.

Health Policy in Emergency Medicine Symposium

The Health Policy in Emergency Medicine Symposium (HPEM) was a dynamic and insightful event, offering a wealth of knowledge and practical skills to attendees. The symposium featured a diverse range of sessions that addressed the most pressing topics in emergency medicine advocacy, provided legislative insights, and offered practical advocacy techniques.

Highlights of the event included a primer on current issues in emergency medicine by Vicki Norton, MD FAAEM, and a fireside chat with Senator Roger Marshall, which offered valuable legislative perspectives. Participants also engaged in in-depth discussions on physician due process rights, the re-introduction of the SAVE Act, and the critical role of physician involvement in successful lobbying efforts.

The day was marked by interactive workshops, such as a session on effective lobbying led by Sue Emmer, BA JD, which provided hands-on practice and essential tools for advocacy. Networking opportunities, including breakfast and a group dinner, allowed attendees to connect and reflect on the day's learnings.

Overall, the HPEM Symposium was a highly informative and empowering experience, equipping attendees with the knowledge and skills necessary to advocate effectively for emergency medicine.

Advocacy Day

During this year's Hill Day, AAEM advocates from across the country met with their members of Congress to support critical legislation, including bills that would provide due process rights to hospital-based physicians, eliminate non-compete clauses, reauthorize the Lorna Breen Act, support DEI in federal medical education, and disallow the corporate practice of medicine.

The event featured over 45 registrants representing 17 states and the District of Columbia. Attendees met with over 50 Congressional offices, participated in lobby trainings conducted by I Street Advocates, and distributed one-pagers created by I Street to Congressional staffers and members of Congress. I Street staff also arranged three committee meetings with Congressional authorizers to discuss the aforementioned bills during the hearing and markup process.

Hill Day marks the beginning of an important advocacy process for AAEM and RSA members. Attendees are encouraged to follow up with Congressional staff by email, reiterate legislative requests, and invite staff and members of Congress to visit their districts. Any unanswered questions from Congressional staff should be directed to I Street. Building these relationships is an ongoing process, and maintaining contact with offices throughout the year is crucial.

For those who could not attend Hill Day, AAEM provides materials to follow up with their Congressional delegation via email or social media. AAEM and I Street staff look forward to the 2025 Hill Day, continuing the vital work of advocating for emergency medicine.