



MACEP ADVOCACY REPORT 2020-21

MAY 2020

- i** Monitoring **COVID-19 State of Emergency Executive Orders**, Regulations and Legislation; Participated in virtual hearings.
- i** Monitored action on H.932, An Act Relative to Out of Network Billing, the main OON bill that MACEP supports; coordinated efforts with the Mass Medical Society and other physician specialty societies.

JUNE 2020

- i** Continued monitoring of the state of emergency Phase 2 Reopening
- i** Discussion and coordination of efforts/legislative priorities with the Mass. Emergency Nurses Association
- i** Wrote a **letter to the Health Policy Commission** objecting to data presented at the Market Oversight and Transparency Committee meeting on Out of Network services and billing in Massachusetts;
- i** Zoom call with key Senate health care leaders and staff in anticipation of the Senate's release and debate on a comprehensive health care bill on OON
- i** Telemedicine and scope of practice; discussion with the California ACEP Executive Director relative to that states legislation and experiences with OON
- i** Wrote **a letter to the Health Care Financing Committee** in support of H.4531, An Act Ensuring Access to Addiction Services, to require that males subject to Section 35 to treated in substance use disorder facilities rather than correctional facilities
- i** Opposed the Senate's health care bill with many calls and letters and a Call to Action to all MACEP members, monitored floor debate on the bill

JULY 2020

- i** Worked with MHA in opposition to proposed changes to the Department of Mental Health and MassHealth proposed changes to the Emergency Services Program (ESP)
- i** OON advocacy relative to the release of the House comprehensive Health Care bill OON provisions, including many calls and letters; Worked with the MMS and other physician speciality societies on an amendment to improve the OON provisions.
- i** Worked with ACEP on a **Call to Action** to all members in support of the amendment.

- i** Sent letters to House leadership thanking them for their support for the amendment which was adopted.
- i** Released new **Point in Time data collection summary** and sent to key House and Senate leaders.

AUGUST 2020

- i** Follow up on House OON including thank you letters, etc
- i** Zoom fundraiser Rep Jon Santiago, sponsor of the successful OON amendment;
- i** Update to members on House OON
- i** Reconnect with Mass Emergency Nurse Association
- i** Monitored Health Policy Commission and shared release of a new report on opioid use.

SEPTEMBER 2020

- i** Began communication with newly named members of Health Care Conference Committee regarding OON provisions passed in the House and Senate, supporting no action in light of anticipated federal action and the pandemic.
- i** Another **Call to Action** and many calls, letters, materials, etc; Joined with the MMS and other specialities in signing on to a letter to the Governor regarding the impact that the lack of child care is having on health care workers.

OCTOBER 2020

- i** Continued communications with HC Conferees, including new member to replace outgoing House Chair of the Committee on Health Care Financing
- i** Worked with Dr. Rideout, MACEP President on his **testimony** to the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery at an 10/23/20 Listening Session on the ways the pandemic has affected mental health and SUD treatment patients and providers, the delivery, and the demand for services
- i** Worked with MACEP Executive Committee members and Executive Director to revise the presentation of MACEP Point in Time data collection to send to the Committee as follow up
- i** Wrote a **letter to House and Senate Conferees on the Policing bill**, asking for representation on Study Commission on Section 12 emergency hospitalizations, along with the Mass Psychiatric Society and the MHA

NOVEMBER 2020

- i** Monitor passage of the House and Senate FY'21 state budget, noting proposed cutbacks to the Department of Public Health and Bureau of Substance Addiction Services
- i** Wrote another round of **letters to HC Conferees on OON**

DECEMBER 2020

- i** Continued advocacy on OON with HC Conferees including another **Call to Action** to members
- i** Worked with a member of the MACEP Executive Committee to set up and participate in a zoom call with staff from the Joint Committee on Substance Use, Disorder and Recovery on ketamine and it's use by EMTs in conjunction with law enforcement.

JANUARY 2021

- i** Work with ACEP to process the federal OON law and reflect positives in legislation to be filed for consideration in the 2021/22 state legislative session
- i** **Sent letter to Gov. Baker, EOHHS Sec. and DPH Commissioner** urging increased reporting of ED boarding.
- i** Released new **Point in Time data collection summary**

FEBRUARY 2021

- i** MACEP President **Dr. Jesse Rideout was interviewed on WBUR**, calling on State to address ED behavioral health boarding and resulted in follow-up **NPR reporting**.
- i** Reviewed and support 2019-2020 bills H.1029 (Khan) and S.1148 (Friedman), An Act relative to medical necessity for mental health acute treatment, which are identical bills. These will be refiled in 2021-2022 session.
- i** Participated in stakeholder call to discuss Massachusetts' Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform: Ensuring the right treatment when and where people need it.
- i** Reviewed and supported Mass Medical Society's Out Of Network bill.
- i** **Letter to DPH Commissioner Monica Bharel** asking to be involved in the working group on Laura's Law.

MARCH 2021

- i** Reviewed all 2021-22 legislation to determine impact on emergency physicians and **created tracking list**
- i** Review and support new legislation by Rep Decker on a state mandate to build a realtime dashboard for peds BH boarding times and the current crisis
- i** Meeting with Dr's Rideout and Kopp and Rep Adrian Madaro, new Chair of Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery.
- i** Hosted national ACEP President, Dr. Mark Rosenberg at MACEP monthly meeting to discuss ongoing MACEP advocacy efforts and requests for national support.

APRIL 2021

- i** Revisited MHA and MNA workplace violence bills with Dr.Lai-Becker for the Public Health Committee.
- i** Meeting with Allyson Perron, Government Relations Director with the American Heart Association on Telecommunicator-CPR (T-CPR) legislation; **An Act relative to improving outcomes for sudden cardiac arrest.**
- i** **Letter to House Speaker Mariano** regarding Distinguished Service Award and secured his participation at MACEP's Virtual Annual Meeting.