

Addressing EMS issues for U.S. Senators and Representatives, federal EMS agency heads, state EMS directors, EMS chiefs, EMS department heads, agency owners, leading manufacturers and national EMS association leaders

Welcome to the second issue of *EMS on the Hill*, a newsletter representing the work of a broad group of EMS organizations dedicated to achieving positive change and recognition for emergency medical services at the state and federal levels. In July 2007, this group of organizations met to review the recommendations of the 2006 IOM *Crossroads* report and develop priorities and action items to help make these recommendations reality. This newsletter will provide updates on those action items, plus discuss other critical industry issues.

## MOVING FORWARD IN 2008

With the new year come new opportunities for the betterment of emergency medical care in the U.S. One of the biggest is the chance to make progress in implementing recommendations made in the Institute of Medicine's 2006 *Emergency Medical Services at the Crossroads* report.

As reported in the last issue of *EMS On the Hill*, top EMS leaders gathered in Washington, DC, last summer to discuss ways to advance the IOM's comprehensive agenda for improving America's EMS systems. Participants from the nation's leading EMS organizations agreed on priority areas and general steps to take, then took them home for assessment by their groups and integration into their agendas. They'll be goals for 2008 and beyond. No one is expecting landmark leaps forward overnight, of course, but there's now a consensus effort among the major players for moving these ideas forward.

One initial challenge lies in an uncertain electoral landscape. Much of what needs to happen needs to happen legislatively, and with the 2008 elections approaching, EMS concerns—especially ones that would cost money—are generally not priorities for lawmakers. (*Note to EMS readers: Anyone want to work to change that?*) But there is a potentially major federal resource coming on the administrative side: a 26-member National EMS

Advisory Council that will make recommendations to NHTSA's Office of EMS (OEMS). Its membership, expected to be announced soon, will include a wide range of EMS stakeholders who will help inform the OEMS' work. "The NEMSAC establishes a formal method for obtaining input and advice from the nation's EMS community," NHTSA officials said in announcing the panel's creation in 2006.

Other progress is occurring through OEMS and FICEMS (the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS) as well. NHTSA is working with federal partners to produce an

*Much of what needs to happen needs to happen legislatively.*

evidence-based practice guidelines process, and FICEMS' Technical Working Group (TWG) is developing short- and long-term EMS needs assessments. Work also continues on the national EMS education standards.

Among the leading emergency medical care advocacy organizations, the American College of Emergency Physicians is planning to use the annual EMS Week celebration in May to promote causes important to EMS. This year's event is May 18–24. For more, see [www.acep.org/emswweek](http://www.acep.org/emswweek).

### EMS Summit Attending Organizations

American Ambulance Association	Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services	International Association of Fire Fighters	Office of Emergency Medical Services, NHTSA
American College of Emergency Physicians	Department of Homeland Security	National Association of EMS Educators	National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians	EMS Best Practices	National Association of EMS Physicians	National Volunteer Fire Council
American College of Surgeons	Emergency Medical Services for Children - National Resource Center	National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians	Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR), DHHS
American Medical Response	Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC - HRSA)	National Association of State EMS Officials	OnStar
American Trauma Society	EMS Magazine	National EMS Management Association	Rural/Metro
Association of Air Medical Services	Emergency Nurses Association		The Center for Health Professions, University of California, SF
Boston EMS	Genentech, Inc.		USA Mobility
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC			

**Other Supporting Organizations:** International Association of Flight Paramedics, The Emergency Medicine Learning and Resource Center, National Collegiate EMS Foundation

### Supporting Partners

