



2009-2010 Legislative Agenda

The Board of the Ambulance Association of Pennsylvania has approved its 2009-2010 Legislative Agenda.

While the AAP returns with many of the same initiatives included in last year's agenda, the 2007-2008 session was a very successful era in AAP legislative activism. The passage of EMS Tax reform and the codification bills certainly shows the General Assembly and Governor's support of EMS and the essential service that this industry provides to the residents of this Commonwealth. But there is still more work to be done.

We acknowledge that many initiatives still exist without resolution, however, the AAP has become an invaluable resource for the General Assembly and the Administration on issues affecting the EMS community.

The AAP was at the forefront of dialogue with the General Assembly, leadership and the Administration, testified at several hearings and was prominent in gaining or amending language in existing bills.

The 2009-2010 Legislative Agenda includes:

- 1. EMS Act 45 Reform*
- 2. The passage of "Direct Pay" legislation*
- 3. Medical Assistance Relief*
- 4. Expansion of EMS into non-traditional roles*
- 5. The creation of a State EMS Director or Commissioner*

EMS Act Reform – Nearly twenty-four years after its' signing, a revision to the EMS Act (Act 45) has been introduced in the General Assembly in both the House and Senate. Director Schmider and the Department of Health, Bureau of EMS have gone out of their way to encourage and seek input into the creation of this revision. The AAP remains heavily involved with the revisions and offered numerous comments and dialogue.

Direct Pay – An issue that has plagued services for years and one of the toughest to gain ground on due to the influence of the insurance lobby. Other avenues also being explored include direct dialogue with the Insurance Federation and the Insurance lobby. The future of this issue may revolve around a non-legislated solution or a possible action by the Pennsylvania Insurance Department.

Medical Assistance Relief – The uninsured, under insured and medical assistance population continue to rise. Medical Assistance reimbursement remained at the same level for 10 years before the AAP fought for an increase in 2004. An ever growing population who utilizes the EMS system for more than medical transportation, the AAP is developing a white paper highlighting the needs of EMS in today's economy.

Non-traditional Roles – A piece of the future of EMS may lie in an expanded roll of prehospital practitioners into public health and disease management. EMS has proven valuable from a morbidity and mortality standpoint in emergency situations, but an even greater impact may be realized through the utilization of prehospital practitioners in disease management by conducting wellness and compliance checks.

EMS Commissioner – We will continue to work to create an administrative model for EMS, which will move our issues to a higher bureaucratic level and result in a greater recognition of EMS as an essential service in conjunction with police and fire services in the Commonwealth. The culmination of this process will increase EMS education within the Executive Branch and the General Assembly allowing policy makers to make informed decisions on EMS system improvements in Pennsylvania.

The success or failure of this agenda rests on the participation of our membership and non-members in the political process. You hold the influence with your local legislator.