

A Newsletter for the Members of the Colorado Chapter - Spring 2025

[View Web Version](#)



In this edition:

[CO ACEP's President's Corner](#)

[From the Capitol](#)

[De-stigmatizing the CO Medical Licensing Language \(HB 25-1176\)](#)

[ACEP 2025 Leadership and Advocacy Conference](#)

[4th Annual Leadership Symposium & EM: High Risk - Do Not Miss](#)

[CO ACEP Upcoming Events](#)

News from ACEP:

[Resources and Latest News](#)

[Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines](#)

CO ACEP President's Corner



Jasmeet Dhaliwal, MD, MPH MBA

President, CO ACEP

Dear Colorado ACEP Members,

It's been a busy and impactful legislative session, and your chapter leaders have been hard at work representing emergency physicians at the Colorado Capitol. We've weighed in on several key issues this year, including:

- Emergency department regulatory requirements
- Physician mental health
- Mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect
- Out-of-network claim arbitration
- Medicaid access and reimbursement

Our leadership team also had the opportunity to attend the ACEP Leadership and Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C., where we joined

colleagues from around the country in advocating for emergency medicine on the national stage.

[Read more.](#)

From the Capitol



Laura Edgerley-Gibb, MD, FACEP

President-Elect, CO ACEP

In lieu of having our lobbyists provide you with a legislative update, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you my take-aways from this legislative session which concluded late on May 7th.

This was another extremely busy legislative session. Suzanne Hamilton and Dan Jablan continue to provide expert leadership and guidance to CO ACEP

as we navigate the ever-changing interests (and schedules!) of the legislators. CO ACEP remains one of the most active medical societies and we are frequently approached for information and testimony. There were 657 bills introduced in this session that required evaluation for impact to Emergency Medicine and we participated in or monitored 83 of those bills.

One of the many highlights of the year was the passing HB 25-1176, a passion project of CO ACEP Treasurer Dr. Kristin Nordenholz with support of the Lorna Breen Foundation, to end the stigma of behavioral health treatment for health care providers. This will eliminate discriminatory language for licensing.

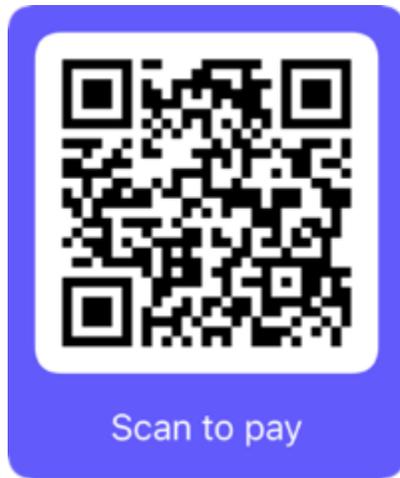
Several of our members testified in conjunction with physicians from the Colorado Medical Society against SB25-032 which sought to expand prescription authority for naturopaths in Colorado and we are very happy to report it was killed in committee after we voiced our significant concerns for patient safety.

Just a few of the other important bills we supported were SB25-191 which requires Cardiac Emergency Plans for School Sports (including having an available AED), SB25-083 which limits restrictive employment agreements (for physicians this applies to the elimination of non-competes in contracts), and SB25-166 which incentivizes hospitals to prevent health-care workplace violence which have all passed!

We also opposed SB25-157 which would have created significant additional liability for physicians beyond malpractice.

We encourage you to engage in this process. Your ability to maintain a successful practice in Colorado is constantly at risk. If you are unable to give your time to the cause, please consider donating to the CO ACEP Small

Donor Committee. This committee was formed to maximize CO ACEP's voice at the Capitol. A \$50 contribution is all it takes to make an impact.



Our legislators appreciate hearing from and rely on the expertise of Emergency Physicians, especially those that live or work in their districts! You can meet or talk to your legislators individually or help provide testimony. Testifying is easy - you can participate via zoom. We were thankful for the participation of many of our members on our Friday legislative sessions this year and will continue that in the next session, starting in January of 2026!

De-stigmatizing the Co Medical Licensing Language (HB 25-1176)



Dr. Kristen Nordenholz, MD, FACEP

Treasurer, CO ACEP

On the subject of Mental Health protections for physicians in our state, CO ACEP, along with the Dr Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation strongly **SUPPORTED HB 25-1176 (<https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb25-1176>) which passed the Colorado House and Senate unanimously and is awaiting the Governor's signature.**

This bill “clarifies that an individual subject to the licensing requirements of the "Colorado Medical Practice Act" is not required to disclose a physical illness, physical condition, behavioral health disorder, mental health disorder, or substance use disorder that no longer impacts the individual's ability to practice the applicable health-care profession or occupation with reasonable skill and safety to patients or clients.”

CO ACEP testified that this is clearly a wellness issue. Roughly 400 US doctors die by suicide every year, which is approximately one doctor death per day. Stigmatization of mental health care in the medical licensing

process is a direct contributor to the physician suicide crisis. The **second highest reason (at 41%) that physicians thinking about suicide didn't seek professional help, was fear of risking disclosing to medical boards!** (<https://www.medscape.com/slideshow/2025-Physician-Suicide-Report-6017981#10>) The Dr Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation came into being after the death by suicide of Dr Lorna Breen who was an emergency physician working at New York Presbyterian during Covid. Dr Breen became depressed and sought mental health help, but killed herself because she, like many others, did not want to face the shame or potential loss of licensure that can accompany mental health disclosures. But this is now improved with HB 25- 1176

Colorado can now join the ranks of 34 other states who have already changed the medical licensing language in their states.

At LAC, during our Day on the Hill, CO ACEP physicians also brought the request to Congress to Co-Sponsor the *Dr Lona Breen Health Care Provider Protection Reauthorization Act* (HR 929/ S 262) to request ongoing support for physician mental health across the US.

However, there is still more work to do at the hospital level across the state. These CO hospitals have already improved their credentialing language: Gunnison Valley Health Hospital Lutheran Hospital, North Suburban Medical Center, Platte Valley Hospital, Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center, Rocky Mountain Hospital for Children, Rose Medical Center, Saint Joseph Hospital, Sky Ridge Medical Center, St. Mary's Regional Hospital, Swedish Medical Center, The Medical Center of Aurora. **If your hospital is not on this list there is an opportunity to also improve your hospital's credentialling language. The Dr Lorna Breen Foundation has plenty of info on their website.** <https://drlornabreen.org/removebarriers/>

ACEP 2025

Leadership Advocacy Conference



Dr. Rebecca Kornas, MD, FACEP

Immediate Past-President, CO ACEP

This year's ACEP Leadership and Advocacy Conference (LAC) ran from April 27-29 in Washington DC at the lovely H Street Grand Hyatt and the US Capitol.

We had quite the Colorado Delegation this year with many current and past members of our Colorado ACEP board attending including Jasmeet Dhaliwal, Ramnik Dhaliwal, Marc Doucette, Laura Edgerly-Gibb, Anna Engeln, Rebecca Kornas, Kristen Nordenholz, Paul Purkurdpol, Parth Shah and our executive director, Suzanne Hamilton. We also were well represented by our emergency medicine residency team with Eric Bustos, Abby Leibowitz and Megan Purdy advocating at the Capitol with our

delegation. We are the go-to medical specialty at the Colorado State Capitol and are building our connections in our national Capitol, as well.

In 2025, LAC attendees conducted almost 300 meetings with legislators and staff in the House and the Senate. These visits focused on [addressing the boarding crisis, supporting the mental health and well-being of emergency physicians and the healthcare workforce](#), and protecting access to our country's safety net of life-saving emergency care.

We had targeted asks for Congressional representatives to co-sponsoring the two pieces of legislation ACEP advocated for during the Hill visits:

- The ACEP-Developed [Addressing Boarding and Crowding in the Emergency Department Act,” or ABC-ED Act](#), which was recently introduced by Dr. John Joyce (R-PA) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI) . This bill would use existing federal grants to expand bed tracking, improve care transitions, and direct a federal study on the impact of bed tracking and capacity management systems on boarding and emergency delays.
- [The Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act](#), ACEP-developed legislation originally signed into law in 2022 that has provided for the distribution of over \$100M in grants for mental health resources and support for health care workers, needs to be reauthorized by Congress.

Colorado ACEP showed up and showed out on stage where Dr. Ramnik Dhaliwal and Dr. Nicholas Steinhour discussed shifting interpretations of the Emergency Medical Treatment & Labor Act (EMTALA) which may further blur the lines of what constitutes a medical screening exam and the definition of fulfilling the EMTALA mandate. These changes may increase risk to physicians and potentially impact autonomy.

Dr. Rebecca Kornas served on another panel, with Wisconsin ACEP Medicaid wizard, Lisa Mauer, where they delved into *Medicaid: Basics and Reform Perspectives*. During this presentation they showcased a foundational overview of Medicaid, breaking down the basics of Medicaid, including eligibility, funding, and key policy considerations and presented on some unique programs to Colorado Medicaid, including our innovative use of provider taxes to fund Medicaid within the parameters mandated by the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (TABOR) and our Medicaid disability buy in program which allows disabled individuals who have the capacity to do meaningful work to do so, allowing them to buy into the state's Medicaid program at a subsidized premiums when they make <450% of the federal poverty level.

The RAND report, "*Strategies for Sustaining Emergency Care in the United States*" (RRA2937-1), published on April 7, 2025, focusing on the viability of emergency medicine was also discussed. It outlines critical challenges facing U.S. emergency departments (EDs) and offers policy recommendations to ensure their viability. Here are four key takeaways:

- **Increased Patient Complexity and Overcrowding:** EDs are experiencing higher volumes of patients with complex needs, including older adults, individuals with mental health issues, and those lacking stable housing. This surge has led to overcrowding, with patients sometimes being treated in hallways due to limited inpatient capacity.
- **Workforce Challenges and Burnout:** Emergency care professionals are facing increased burnout, partly due to understaffing, rising patient acuity, and exposure to workplace violence. Additionally, declining reimbursement rates have not kept pace with inflation, contributing to workforce dissatisfaction.
- **Financial Strain on Emergency Departments:** Despite their critical role, EDs are under financial pressure due to declining reimbursement rates and increasing operational costs. The report emphasizes the need for financial incentives to support EDs in managing overcrowding and patient boarding.

- **Policy Recommendations for Sustainability:** The report suggests several policy actions, including enforcing anti-violence laws to protect healthcare workers, implementing financial incentives to address ED overcrowding, and promoting flexible care models to enhance ED capacity and resilience.

These findings highlight the urgent need for comprehensive policy interventions to sustain emergency care services in the United States and will be key in advocacy efforts over the coming months and years.

Read the whole report here:

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RRA2937-1.html

It was a galvanizing conference, and we encourage you to join the Colorado team next year, when the conference occurs on April 26-28, 2026. Take a look at what you missed:



**A Congressional Reception for EM champion,
Congressman Brittnay Pettersen (and Sam).**

Pictured from left to right are Drs. Megan Purdy, Abby Leibowitz, Laura Edgerly-Gibb, Jamie Dhaliwal, Ricky Dhaliwal, Congresswoman Brittnay Pettersen with baby Sam, Anna Engeln, Paul Purkurdpol, Rebecca Kornas, Kristen Nordenholz, Parth Shah, Marc Doucette, and Jacob Altholz.



Taking a break from representing Colorado emergency medicine on Capitol Hill. CO ACEP physicians join ACEP staff for a quick dinner.

Pictured from left to right are Adam Krushinski and Bree Hanson with ACEP and Drs. Sydney DeAngelis, Nikki Thran, Kristen Nordenholz, Rebecca Kornas and Ricky Dhaliwal.



Leaving the Congressional Reception are Drs. Anna Engeln and Kristen Nordenholz with CO ACEP resident members of the Board, Drs. Abby Leibowitz and Megan Purdy.



CO ACEP leaders plug our exciting November 6 & 7, 2025 at the LAC.

Pictured left to right are Drs. Rebecca Kornas, Parth Shah, Jamie Dhaliwal, Kristen Nordenholz, Abby Leibowitz and Laura Edgerly-Gibb.



And a chance to gather with EM Leaders from across the country.

4th Annual Leadership Symposium

& EM: High Risk - Do Not Miss



Come to Colorado in the Fall

EST. 2022

4th Annual
Leadership Symposium
&
EM: High Risk - Do Not Miss

Event Highlights:

- Nationally Recognized Speakers
- Leadership Development
- Politics in this Divisive Environment
- AI in the ED
- Undifferentiated Sick Neonates
- From Rural to Urban
- Hands-on Ultrasound Skills
- Reduction Techniques
- LVAD Emergencies
- and more

Register Today!



Date: November 6 & 7, 2025

Location: Park Hyatt Resort & Spa
Beaver Creek, Colorado



Brought to you by
COLORADO CHAPTER
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS
ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE

4th Annual Leadership Symposium

November 6, 2025

Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort and Spa

Time	Title & Presenter
	Welcome
12:30– 1:15pm	The Post-Pandemic Emergency Physician Job Market – Disasters, Disruptions, and Dynamism Dr. Leon Adelman, MD, MBA, FACEP

1:15– 1:45pm	<i>Serving as a Moderate Legislator in Today’s Divisive Political Environment</i> Senator Dylan Roberts
1:45- 2:30pm	<i>Winning the Payer Battle: Overcoming Denials, Down codes, and Reimbursement Challenges in Emergency Medicine</i> Dr. Jason Adler, MD, FACEP
2:30- 2:40pm	<i>Break</i>
2:40- 3:30pm	<i>Critical Connections: Leadership and Emergency Medicine</i> Dr. Andrew French, MD, FACEP
3:30- 4:20pm	<i>Elevating Our Game: Cultivating Connected Transformation in Healthcare Settings</i> Dr. Patrick Kneeland, MD
4:20- 5:00pm	<i>The Current and Future of Artificial Intelligence in Emergency Departments</i> Dr. Jesse Pines, MD, MBA, FACEP
5:00- 6:30pm	<i>Cocktail Hour (and a half)</i>

4th Annual Emergency Medicine:

High Risk - Do Not Miss

November 7, 2025

Park Hyatt Beaver Creek Resort and Spa

Time	Title & Presenter
8:55am	Welcome Dr. Rebecca Kornas, MD, FACEP
9:00– 9:30am	Syringes, Rocket Launchers, and Rum: Common Reduction Techniques Dr. Marianne Wallis, MD
9:30- 10:00am	LVAD emergencies and approach to care in the Emergency Department Dr. Patrick Joynt, MD
10:00- 10:15am	Break
10:15- 10:45am	Beyond Neutropenic Fever: Complications of immune-based cancer therapies Dr. Abby Leibowitz, MD
10:45- 11:15am	Post Partum Emergencies Dr. Anna Engeln, MD, FACEP

11:15- 11:45am	<i>Prehospital Whole Blood: Overcoming Barriers and Exploiting Opportunities</i> Dr. Scott Branney, MD
11:45- 12:30pm	<i>The Rural ED Provider Approach to the Undifferentiated Sick Neonate</i> Dr. Avery Mackenzie, MD, FACEP Dr. Ross Orpet, MD Dr. Taylor McCormick, MD
12:30- 1:30pm	<i>Lunch with Dr. A. Tony Cirillo, MD, FACEP</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Understanding the Alphabet Soup of Organizations and Agencies in the Healthcare Space</i> • <i>National ACEP Update</i>
1:30 – 5pm	<i>Ultrasound Skills and Procedures and Regional Anesthesia for the Emergency Department</i> Drs. Matthew Riscinti, MD (Lead), Tania Allison, MD, Philippe Ayres, MD, Joseph Brown, MD, Dave Bosch, DO, Dylan Foley, MD, Meghan Hurley, MD, Sarah Janik, MD, Nhu-Nguyen Le, MD, Fred Milgrim, MD, Jamie Pospishil, MD, and Daniel Zeccola, MD

Upcoming Events Calendar

CO ACEP 2025 Board of Directors' Meeting Schedule

- July 17, 12pm – 2pm Board Directors
- September 4, 12pm – 2pm Board Directors
- November 6, 11am – 1pm Board Directors

CO ACEP 2025 Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

- June 5, 12pm – 2pm – Executive Committee
- August 7, 12pm – 2pm – Executive Committee
- October 2, 12pm – 2pm – Executive Committee
- December 4, 12pm – 2pm – Executive Committee

Additional Important Meeting Dates

- September 5-6, ACEP’s 2024 Council Meeting, Salt Lake City, Utah
- September 7-10, ACEP’s Scientific Assembly, Salt Lake City, Utah
- November 7, 1pm – 5pm Leadership Symposium
- November 7, 8am – 5pm CME Program “EM: High Risk – Do Not Miss”

For more information about participating in any of the meetings listed above, please contact CO ACEP Executive Director Suzanne Hamilton at suzanne.acep@comcast.net.

FROM NATIONAL ACEP



ACEP Resources & Latest News

ACEP Urges Congress to Reject Harmful Medicaid Cuts

This week, ACEP joined 42 national medical organizations in a letter opposing proposed Medicaid changes that would result in devastating coverage losses and reduced access to care. [Read more.](#)

ACEP-Supported Legislation Would Bring Fairness, Due Process to Physicians

Protecting clinical autonomy empowers emergency physicians to always be able to put patients first. That is why ACEP continues to fight for the bipartisan, bicameral 'Physician and Patient Safety Act' to guarantee due process rights for all physicians...[Read more.](#)

ACEP Pushes Back on Efforts to Cut Student Loan Forgiveness

ACEP is pushing back hard on efforts to change the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program and other federal student load programs. [Read more.](#)

ACEP Advocacy Leads to New Boarding Legislation

A new ACEP-developed bipartisan bill to address the boarding crisis has been introduced in the House of Representatives, with a Senate companion soon to follow. [Read more.](#)

Congress Takes Strong Step Toward Better Protections for Health Care Workers

A new bipartisan bill strengthens protections against violence for emergency physicians and care teams, a longtime priority for ACEP. [Read more.](#)

New RAND Report: Insurance Company Tactics Threaten Emergency Care Sustainability and Patient Access

Emergency physicians across the United States are facing increasing financial and operational pressures threatening their ability to provide lifesaving care, according to a [new report](#) authored by RAND and supported by the Emergency Medicine Policy Institute (EMPI). [Read more.](#)

ACEP Launches Emergency Department Accreditation Program (EDAP)

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) is launching a new Emergency Department Accreditation Program (EDAP) to recognize emergency departments that meet the highest standards for emergency medicine, promote a safe work environment and provide exceptional patient care. [Read more.](#)

ACEP Response to ACGME Proposed Changes to EM Program Requirements

ACEP is fully committed to raising the bar for emergency medicine education and ensuring that our future colleagues are prepared to meet the challenges ahead. [Read more.](#)

CMS Clarifies Residency Funding Proposal

ACEP met with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to discuss the ACGME's proposed changes to emergency medicine residency program requirements to share our perspectives and gain clarity on how CMS will approach changes to funding emergency medicine residencies. [Read more.](#)

ACEP, NAEMT Announce EMS Week 2025

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) will recognize EMS Week, May 18-24, 2025, to celebrate emergency medical services professionals.

[Read more.](#)

VisualDx Partners with American College of Emergency Physicians to Enhance Measles Diagnosis and Treatment

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and VisualDx, a medical informatics and AI technology company, are partnering to deliver a comprehensive tool for physicians to address the measles outbreak. [Read more.](#)

Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

- [Revolutionizing ED Workflows from Triage with AI*](#)

May 28, 2025

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Central Time

The future of emergency care starts at triage. Discover how integrating Artificial Intelligence can hyper-optimize your ED workflows, cutting wait times, improving accuracy, and freeing up your team for critical tasks. Join us to learn how AI is transforming the ED front door. *This event is for ACEP Members Only.* [Register.](#)

- [ACEP25 Scientific Assembly](#)

September 7-10, 2025

For the first time, ACEP's annual meeting will be in the beautiful city of Salt Lake City, UT. The world's largest emergency medicine educational conference brings together the global EM community. The Pitt actor Noah Wyle and Olympic gold medalist Scott Hamilton headline a can't-miss

speaker lineup at the Sept. 7-10 event in Salt Lake City. [Register](#) with promo code HikeyBikey and save \$100.

Contact Us

Jasmeet Dhaliwal, MD, MPH, MBA - President

Suzanne Hamilton - Executive Director

303.905.8777 | suzanne.acep@comcast.net | [Website](#)

Colorado Chapter ACEP

1520 W Dry Creek Rd.

Littleton, CO 80120

© 2025 Colorado Chapter ACEP. All rights reserved.

Getting too many emails? Update your [ACEP Email Subscription Center](#) and select only what you want to receive.