Federal Government Affairs Committee

1. Analyze and recommend legislative and regulatory priorities for the Second Session of the 114th Congress and develop new legislative/regulatory recommendations as appropriate, including advocating for tort reform/medical liability reform and safe harbor proposals.

*Outcome:* The Board approved the priorities for Second Session of the 114th Congress in January 2016.

2. Maintain and expand the 9-1-1 legislative network. Evaluate and enhance the network’s role in advancing ACEP’s legislative/regulatory agenda. Encourage committee members to meet with their congressional representatives either locally or on Capitol Hill.

*Outcome:* The recommendations developed under the Expand/Enhance program have been successful. The 911 Network now has more than 2,000 members and the number of congressional districts covered is at a record high, with only 37 uncovered. There were a record number of visits on Capitol Hill during the 2016 Leadership & Advocacy Conference from a record number of attendees.

3. Establish and maintain a regular dialogue with Congressional members and staff on the critical issues in emergency medicine, specifically on the value added services that emergency medicine provides to the health care system.

*Outcome:* Completed 106 meetings with Members of Congress, attended 96 fundraisers, and provided comments and recommendations to every Member of Congress regarding opioid/pain management policies.

4. Work with Congress and related organizations on Medicare physician reimbursement, particularly the implementation of the SGR repeal (MACRA).

*Outcome:* In April 2015, Congress voted to repeal the SGR, thereby eliminating the annual threat to physicians’ reimbursement under the Medicare program. ACEP and all other medical specialty societies and organizations have provided numerous comments to CMS through comment letters and responses to requests for information. ACEP provided eight comment letters addressing physician and hospital inpatient and outpatient payment and quality provisions and numerous other subjects, including APMs, and ACOs.

5. Work with the Emergency Medicine Action Fund to pursue legislative issues that are complimentary to the Fund’s charter.

*Outcome:* ACEP’s Public Affairs Line of Service worked with committees of the House and Senate on report language to accompany two appropriations bills. The report language suggested guidance to the executive branch (CCHIO) on its regulation regarding out of network payments. ACEP continues to work for adoption of this language as Congress moves on year end spending legislation.

6. Develop strategies to remove the exemption of Medicaid from the prudent layperson standard. Work with the Reimbursement Committee as needed. (Federal Government Affairs is the lead committee.)

*Outcome:* The Second Session of the 114th Congress has not offered opportunities for legislation modifying Medicaid. Work on this objective will continue in 2016-17 with the 115th Congress.

7. Work with the Quality & Patient Safety Committee, Reimbursement Committee, and the Observation Section as needed to complete the development of an information paper on readmissions vs. observation as an “outcome” of quality measures. (Quality & Patient Safety is the lead committee.)

*Outcome:* A literature search was completed and is under review by the committee.
8. Work with the ACEP/EDPMA Task Force, Reimbursement Committee, and State Legislative/Regulatory Committee to provide a recommendation to the Board regarding further action on Referred Resolution 28(15).