


THANK YOU

***Sens. Debbie Stabenow and Arlen Specter and
Reps. Bart Gordon and Pete Sessions***

for your leadership in re-introducing the

“Access to Emergency Medical Services Act”!

A photograph of a sign for Phoenix Memorial Hospital. The sign is white with black text and is mounted on a metal frame. The text on the sign reads "PHOENIX MEMORIAL HOSPITAL" at the top, "EMERGENCY ROOM" in the middle, and "CLOSED" at the bottom. The sign is slightly tilted and the background is a dark, overcast sky.

***The “Access to
Emergency
Medical Services
Act” will improve
the quality of
care and protect
patient safety
by addressing
the critical
problems facing
emergency
patients.***

As financial pain spreads throughout the country and more people are unable to get medical care because of a failing health care system, ***more people are turning to emergency departments.*** ACEP’s National Report Card on the State of Emergency Medicine gave the nation an overall grade of C- for its lack of support for emergency patients, based on data from 2006, and without question the situation has deteriorated significantly since then.

The “Access to Emergency Medical Services Act” will improve the quality of care and protect patient safety by addressing the critical problems facing emergency patients, such as the practice of “boarding,” or keeping admitted

patients in the ER waiting for inpatient beds, and ambulance diversion. As the nation strives to achieve compre-

hensive health care reform, let’s not forget the critical role of our nation’s emergency departments, which are open 24/7. This access must be supported and preserved.

The nation’s emergency physicians urge Congress to hold hearings on how to address the severe problems facing the millions of people seeking emergency care each year and enact this legislation.

At no other time in our nation’s history has the role of emergency departments been more important.

 American College of
Emergency Physicians®

ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE 

800.320.0610

www.acep.org