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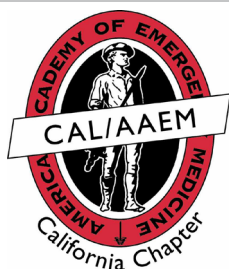
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California Chapter of the American Academy of Emergency Medicine

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

November 2013

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The new academic year provides a chance for reflection on the state of emergency medicine. Fresh faces yearning for knowledge allow a chance to present the important topics regarding our specialty to a new audience. One of these topics is the continuing challenge of provision of unencumbered emergency care to every person. Unfortunately, the ability to provide care to all is a continuing concern that we have been working on for years and is once again being contested at the state and national level.

As emergency physicians, California residents and CAL/AAEM members, we should all be aware of the challenges to SB 191, the Maddy Fund. This fund provides \$50 million dollars in funding for emergency care. Emergency care in California is significantly impacted by this funding source. I encourage you all

to contact the governor's office in support of this bill.

Other emergency funding cuts are also looming. AB 97, the 10 percent rate cut for physicians and other Medi-Cal providers, is set to begin implementation in October 2013. In addition, the Department of Health Care Services plans to implement retro-active reimbursement cuts extending to January 2011.

You, as I have, have received a wealth of communication from groups who are invested in the protection of physician practice. CAL/AAEM, AAEM and the AMA are all invested in legislation that affects physician practice. As legislation continues to affect your practice throughout your career, I urge you to remain active in



organized medicine. Consider being active at a local, state and national level.

One way to gain information and socialize with like-minded individuals is the CAL/AAEM Speakers Series. I am happy to announce that the San Francisco Speakers Series will take place on November 21, 2013, from 6:00PM-9:00PM.

For those who thrive in the virtual world of social media, CAL/AAEM has up to date information on the Maddy Fund and other issues via email (info@calaaem.org), Twitter (www.twitter.com/CALAAEM)

and Facebook (www.facebook.com/CALAAEM). I can't emphasize enough the importance of staying involved in these trying times.

Sincerely,

Lisa Mills, MD FAAEM
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