

April 6, 2020

I want to thank all of you who have put your own safety at risk to treat patients during this unprecedented time. Emergency Medicine has been at the forefront of this pandemic and we have very strongly risen to the challenge. The amount of collaboration and support among physicians has been awe inspiring, and I have no doubt that this collaboration has saved many lives.

Unfortunately, the significant decrease in patient volume at emergency departments throughout the state has resulted in financial challenges for emergency physician groups. As a result, many of us have had to take substantial cuts in pay during a time where we are taking the most risk.

The American College of Emergency Physicians, with the support of TCEP, have sent a letter to Alex Azar detailing the financial strain being placed on emergency physicians during a time where we are asking the most from them. ACEP has asked for 3.6 billion dollars to be distributed to emergency medicine practices to help offset the effects of decreased revenue. There has also been a dialogue between ACEP, TCEP and TMA with the COVID task force in regard to financial support, PPE, ventilators, etc. TCEP, along with TAPA and TMA, are lobbying the governor for extended liability protection during this crisis

Rest assured both TCEP and ACEP will continue to do everything possible to protect both your income and your safety. We are continuing to work aggressively with state and federal governments to distribute PPE and provide resources for emergency physicians. I am very proud to represent emergency physicians across Texas during an unprecedented time that has shown emergency medicine to truly be the frontline of medicine across the world.

Robert J. Hancock, DO FACEP
President-Elect
Texas College of Emergency Physicians

Here is a link to the letter from ACEP to the Department of Health & Human Services:
<https://www.acep.org/globalassets/new-pdfs/advocacy/acep-letter-to-secretary-azar-on-cares-act-funding.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1oxO08exYq55RL-cVMM02cVGB18yo1YAI8clBnHoyd6IWDbw52NJgc3cE>