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# WASHINGTON UPDATE

2016 Post-Election Supplemental

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ENA Government Relations  
[gov@ena.org](mailto:gov@ena.org)

## **Donald Trump Elected as the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States; Republicans Retain Control of Senate, House**

Defying nearly every national poll and a “blue firewall” that many deemed impenetrable, Donald Trump was elected as the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. As of Wednesday, Trump led the Electoral College vote count, 290 to Hillary Clinton’s 228. Accumulating 270 electoral votes is enough to win the White House. Provided by a big boost when Florida was announced in his favor, Trump was able to continue his path to victory by taking states that had once been reliable sources of Democratic strength, winning Rust Belt states like Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. Of historical note, President Obama won all of these states in 2008 and 2012. At this time, [CNN.com](http://CNN.com) still shows unconfirmed results in Michigan, Minnesota and New Hampshire (all of which Obama carried in 2008 and 2012). Clinton currently leads in New Hampshire and Minnesota. Adding another wrinkle to the story is the fact that Clinton currently leads Trump in the national popular vote by about 200,000 votes. The last time a presidential candidate won the popular vote and lost the electoral vote was in 2000, when George W. Bush defeated Al Gore.

In addition, Democrats’ hopes for a Senate takeover were dashed as Republicans held on to a slim majority in the U.S. Senate, so far only losing one seat as Representative Tammy Duckworth (D-IL08) defeated incumbent Senator Mark Kirk in Illinois. One race – the New Hampshire contest between Republican incumbent Kelly Ayotte and Democratic challenger Maggie Hassan remains too close to call. Additionally, Republicans easily retained control of the House of Representatives. As of early Wednesday afternoon, Democrats have so far picked up only seven seats, well short of the 30 they needed to have a majority. Four House races have yet to be called.

## **Congress to Begin Lame Duck Session Next Week**

Congress will enter into a lame duck session on Monday, November 14. “Lame Duck” refers to the period after national elections (November 8, 2016) and before the next Congress is sworn into office (currently scheduled for January 3, 2017). Congress has approximately 16 working days to pass a number of major pieces of legislation, including some considered to be “must-pass” bills, before the end of the session.

## **Action Needed to Avoid Government Shutdown**

The current Continuing Resolution (CR), which [ENA supported](#) in September, narrowly avoided a government shutdown and has continued funding government programs since October, expires at midnight on December 9, 2016. Members of Congress must pass another appropriations bill by then to avert another government shutdown. There are many priorities that various groups are expressing support for, including funding for the Flint, Michigan water crisis and additional monies for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). ENA recently joined other nursing organizations in voicing support in the [House](#) and [Senate](#) for Title VIII Nursing Workforce Development Programs and funding for the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) within NIH. Additionally, ENA has requested funding for emergency medical services for children (EMSC) programs and poison control centers.

## **ENA Continues to Push for Action on Legislative Priorities**

ENA is hopeful the House and Senate will hold floor votes on the *Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act (HR 4365/ S 2932)* when it begins the lame duck session next week. Along with several other health care organizations, ENA has been urging offices in the House and Senate, including key Committee staff, to hold a vote on this legislation when Congress goes back in session on November 14.

The *Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act* would ensure that the practice of using standing orders by emergency medical service providers to administer controlled substances in the field will be preserved. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) had previously signaled that it did not have the authority under the Controlled Substances Act to allow such practice, signaling the need for legislation. H.R. 4365/S. 2932 were priority bills for 2016's Day on the Hill, and have been formally endorsed by ENA.

In addition, ENA is pushing for movement on bills that address the mental health crisis. The House passed its comprehensive mental health care reform legislation (H.R. 2646) in July, while the Senate reported its version (S. 2680) out of Committee in April. ENA Government Relations recently met with staff from the teams of HELP Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) to discuss the possible movement of a comprehensive mental health bill. While negotiations between the Senate and House of resolving differences in the legislation are still ongoing, ENA is urging that the final bill include adequate reimbursement for community-based and inpatient treatment of patients suffering from mental illnesses.