



SECTION FOURTEEN

EMERGENCY MEDICINE PROCLAMATIONS

Each year special interest groups approach governors and state legislators requesting official proclamations designating a day, week, or month relative to their cause. Proclamations help to publicize and promote the organization and its issues.

Chapters can promote a special issue and emergency medicine through an official proclamation. “Emergency Medicine Day” or “EMS Week,” as proclaimed by the governor, is an excellent public relations effort to increase awareness of emergency medicine. A chapter-sponsored proclamation for an official Emergency Medicine Day or EMS Week can be combined with a legislative seminar, lobbying efforts, meetings, emergency medicine-related exhibits, and demonstrations.

The method for seeking an official proclamation varies from state to state. It may be less complicated to seek a proclamation from the governor than from the legislature unless your chapter has a close relationship with a legislator willing and able to sponsor it. To determine the appropriate method for seeking an official proclamation, contact the governor’s office. It is important to request the following:

- **Format for proclamations.** Samples of other proclamations are usually available, and conforming to them can expedite the approval process.
- **Contact.** Determine the person in the governor’s office to whom the request for an official proclamation should be submitted.
- **Time frame.** Be aware of the time required for review and approval.

Once you receive the proclamation in writing, publish it in the chapter newsletter and submit it to the media with appropriate background information. Chapter members appreciate knowing that the chapter is promoting their profession and specialty.