

Advancing healthy communities through a unified voice across the health care continuum

Advancing
Healthy
Communities



The 92nd Legislative Session has come to a close. Herein is an overview of our health care advocacy efforts.

Budget

The legislative branch adopted the general budget bill of \$4.6 billion for FY 18, with sales tax revenues coming in at a combined \$51 million shortfall from budgeted projections for FY 17 and FY 18 due to less spending in agriculture equipment, low inflation, lower tourism spending, cautious uncertain consumers and online purchasing. Here are the FY 18 budget highlights:

- ✓ No budget cuts to providers.
- ✓ 0 percent Medicaid inflationary update to providers, such as hospitals and physicians.
- ✓ Targeted investments for provider enhancement to 90 percent for FY 18 was not appropriated.
- ✓ Funding for 14 Medicare critical access hospitals to a more uniform rate was not appropriated.
- ✓ 0.3 percent provider inflation increase (total \$1.5 million) went to community support providers such as nursing homes, hospice and assisted living.
- ✓ Funding for the proposed Family Physician Residency Program in Pierre was postponed for one year.

Workforce and Retention

- ✓ Passage of health care recruitment assistance programs, which received \$935,581 in financial support.
- ✓ Passage of an oversight bill of technical schools allowing them to more nimbly respond to workforce needs in their communities (after the passage of Constitutional Amendment R).
- ✓ Passage of bill adding Emergency Medical Responders (EMR) for ambulance transport in an effort to provide sustainability in ambulance service. EMRs will serve in an assistance role for the EMTs. EMRs require one-third of the training.
- ✓ Passage of bill governing nurse practitioners and nurse midwives thereby improving access to care in rural areas.
- ✓ Passage of bill providing physical therapists flexibility for initial visits with patients in rural areas.

Hospital Owned Health Insurance Plans

Defeated a bill that would have caused irreparable harm to the hospital owned health insurance plans. The bill would have significantly disrupted free market competition and innovation by attacking long established South Dakota insurance plans.

BY THE NUMBERS

- ✓ 40 bills advocated for
 - 18 bills supported
 - 8 bills opposed
 - 14 bills monitored
- ✓ 93 percent success rate on legislative priorities
- ✓ 3 Advocacy Alerts issued
- ✓ 18+ calls to appropriators
- ✓ 38 legislators and the Governor hosted at All-District Meeting

NEW THIS YEAR

- ✓ 9 weekly conference calls with members on federal and state legislation

Certified Professional Midwives (CPM)

The bill passed after many years of direct opposition. However our efforts to provide protections for the unborn, the mother and our members were included in the bill draft. Unfortunately, our requests to define low-risk births and prohibit high-risk home births was not received. We will continue to advocate for the health of mothers and babies during the administrative rules process later this year.

Post-Acute Care

- ✓ Defeated bills to allow for the transfer and sale of nursing home beds and the reversion of nursing home beds to the Department of Health if those beds are not in use.
- ✓ Defeated a bill that would have enacted Medicaid Rate Equalization.
- ✓ Passage of bill requiring an annual report from DOH about the need for additional nursing facilities and beds.
- ✓ Passage of bill providing community living homes that will support one to four unrelated adults in an independent residential living home.
- ✓ Passage of a bill authorizing a nursing home in Eagle Butte.
- ✓ Budget constraints led to the defeat of a bill that would have established a program to assist nursing and assisted living facilities in recruiting certain health care personnel.
- ✓ Passage of a bill to establish an inclusive, transparent and frequent periodic review of provider rates for medical assistance to the indigent for nursing homes, assisted living facilities, in-home service providers, and others.

Prescription Drugs

- ✓ Passage of bill funding intensive meth treatment services.
- ✓ Passage of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program's integration into the central repository of electronic health records to allow health systems, pharmacies and health information exchanges to seamlessly access data.

Other Legislation

- ✓ Passage of a bill to revise mental health procedures in the criminal justice program, including involving the South Dakota sheriffs' development of a jail mental health screening pilot program. This bill will take effect upon the governor's signature.
- ✓ Defeated a bill that would have capped the maximum rate of interest on debt arising out of medical services to no more than 4 percent annually.
- ✓ Passage of a Good Samaritan bill that allows a person to remain with someone who has overdosed or was in need of medical help because of the use of illegal drugs or the illegal use of prescription drugs. The bill provides limited immunity from criminal prosecution.
- ✓ Passage of a bill that provided for free-standing emergency medical care facilities.
- ✓ Passage of a bill to legalize cannabidiol oil for treatment purposes.
- ✓ Passage of an applied behavior analysis bill that will provide health coverage for autism therapy.
- ✓ Defeated a bill that would have allowed concealed weapons in hospitals.

Join us in expressing appreciation for the Council on Public Policy

Council Chair Curt Hohman, Bryan Breitling, Mike Diedrich, Doug Ekeren, Ashley Erickson, Deb Fischer-Clemens, Nick Fosness, Eric Hilmoe, Jay Jahng, Nick Kotzea, Scott Larson, Jason Merkley, Erica Peterson, Kyle Richards, Dr. Stephan Schroeder, Marcia Taylor, Tim Tracy, Gale Walker.