



Idaho Medical Association

State Legislative Update: IMA Advocacy Priorities

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2017 Legislative Review

- 2017 Session: Some good, mostly bad
 - State general budget increased 5.4% over the prior year ~ More positive growth
 - Boost of 6.3% going to increase public school funding ~ Backfill of cuts made in prior years
 - However, Legislature remains unwilling to Close the Gap and provide health coverage for uninsured, low-income Idahoans
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2017 Legislative Review

- Successes:
 - Boost of 15% for Health Education Programs budget
 - WWAMI Medical Education Program, University of Utah School of Medicine
 - Family medicine residency programs: FMRI, ISU, CDA
 - Expansion of J-1 Visa program to include certain specialists in high need areas
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2017 Legislative Review

- Disappointments:
 - Close the Gap: No action due to belief that ACA would be repealed
 - Broad scope of practice expansions
 - Pharmacist prescribing, Chiropractor injections
 - Psychologist prescribing with NP equivalent education & physician oversight
 - Defeat of bill requiring providers to use IRIS
 - No new regulation on health insurers
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2018 IMA Legislative Agenda

- Ten-Year Plan for Residency Expansion
 - Bolster Loan Repayment Resources
 - Close the Gap: Cover the Uninsured
 - Dual Waiver Proposal
 - Exec Order: Non-ACA Compliant Ins. Plans
 - Balance Billing
 - Immunity for Physician Volunteers
 - Prior Authorization Simplification
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10 Year GME Expansion

- **Idaho's Current Status:**
 - Idaho ranks 49th in the United States for physicians per capita
 - Idaho ranks 49th in the US for medical residents per capita
 - Idaho: 6.7 medical residents/100,000 people
 - US: 28.1 medical residents/100,000 people
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10 Year GME Expansion

- **Looking to the Future:**
 - Increase GME programs from 9 to 21 in all geographic regions of Idaho
 - Increase Residents/Fellows training in Idaho from 141 to 357
 - Raise Idaho's number of residents from 6.7 per 100,000 people to 17.7
 - Graduate 2,000 Idaho-trained residents
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10 Year GME Expansion

- **Benefits of Expanding GME:**
 - 50-75% of residents stay within 100 miles of their residency training sites
 - Provide care to Medicaid and uninsured patients, meeting medical needs of our rural and underserved communities
 - 50-60% of trained residents will practice in Idaho based on current retention rates
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10 Year GME Expansion

- **Economic impact of each practicing physician in Idaho:**
 - Supports an average of 12 jobs
 - Produces \$1.9 million in direct and indirect economic output
 - Generates over \$61K per physician in state and local taxes
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Physician Loan Repayment

- **Rural Physician Incentive Program (RPIP)**
 - Awards \$100,000 over four years:
 - Primary Care (FP, IM, PD) or
 - High Need (PS, OB, GS, ER)
 - Health Professional Shortage Areas
 - Priority given to:
 - WWAMI/U of U students who paid into RPIP
 - Idaho residents who trained elsewhere
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Physician Loan Repayment

- Solely funded by WWAMI/U of U medical student fees ~ \$1600/year
 - Legislation for 2:1 state matching funds
 - Current influx approx. \$320,000 per year, plus \$640,000 from state would allocate nearly \$1 million per for physician loan repayment
 - Significant increase in number of awards
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Close the Gap: Cover the Uninsured

- **Dual Waiver Proposal**
 - DOI 1332 waiver to allow below 100% FPL subsidies for exchange plans
 - Approx 35,000 individuals
 - DHW 1115 waiver to shift seriously ill from private insurance to Medicaid for duration of illness ~ stabilize private ins market
 - Approx 3500 individuals
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Executive Order 2018-02

- **EO Allows Non-ACA Compliant Insurance Plans**
 - Less expensive, but does not provide all ACA essential benefits & consumer protections
 - Guaranteed issue & renewability
 - Cover pre-existing conditions w/prior plan
 - Medical underwriting allowed but capped
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Balance Billing

- In non-emergency situations:
 - Balance billing is prohibited unless
 - The OON physician obtains a written agreement from the patient in advance of the service rendered
 - Patient acknowledges his/her plan may not cover OON services
 - Patient agrees to pay OON provider rates
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Balance Billing

- In emergency situations:
 - Prohibits out of network (OON) physicians from seeking payment from the patient for services rendered
 - Sets an indexed OON rate
 - IMA fighting for market-based index rates, not rates set by insurers or government
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Immunity for Physician Volunteers

- Provide additional liability protection for volunteer health providers who serve at community screening events
 - Screening only, not treatment
 - Current immunity for volunteers who provide treatment in free clinics, but not outside of clinic location
 - Encourage more volunteerism
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Prior Authorization Simplification

- Prior Auth = one of the biggest barriers to patient care
 - In early January, Dept of Insurance convened insurers and providers to address ways to lessen the burdens of prior auth
 - If discussions do not bear fruit, legislation will follow
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2018 Elections

- Statewide:
 - New Governor
 - New Lt. Governor
 - At least 1/3 of the Legislature will turn over & potential new leadership
- National:
 - New Congressional District One Representative



IMA Benefits

In addition to legislative and policy advocacy, IMA provides valuable benefits to member physicians

- Reimbursement assistance
- Chart review
- Audit consultation
- MACRA assistance
- Coding seminars
- Legal review of general topics (minor consent laws, for example)
- Physician's Recovery Network
- CME opportunities
- IMA Financial and Asset Management Services
- Insurance programs such as disability, term life and individual special disability income
- Access to special discounts
- Newsletters, directories and reports on timely healthcare issues
- Networking with colleagues



IMA Needs Your Help!

- Please remind & encourage your physician colleagues to join the IMA
 - Watch for alerts from the IMA on legislative & other important issues
 - Use the IMA Grassroots Advocacy Center on our website to send messages to your legislators: www.idmed.org
 - Like Idaho Medical Association on Facebook for postings on Idaho health issues and events
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State Legislative Update

- Discussion & Questions
 - Thank You!!
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