



From Stethoscopes to Soapboxes: Empowering DPC Physicians to be Catalysts for Change in Healthcare Advocacy

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All individuals in a position to control content for this activity have indicated they have no relevant financial relationships to disclose.



Disclosures

Dr. Wendy Molaska, MD, FAAFP - Past President of the Wisconsin Medical Society

Dr. Eric Kropp, MD - Past President of the New Hampshire Medical Society



Learning Objectives

1. Discover how Direct Primary Care (DPC) doctors can shape healthcare policy to improve patient outcomes and benefit the practice.
2. Explore current healthcare issues affecting DPC practices and patient care, and how doctors can address them to better serve patients.
3. Learn practical tools to enhance advocacy skills, including communication, networking, and collaboration, to improve patient care and strengthen the practice.



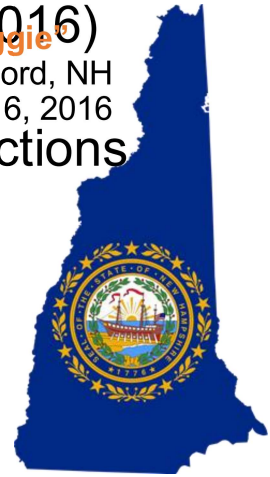
My foray into advocacy

"Mike"
New Hampshire
Ardennes region
Belgium, December
15, 1944
Relative to en

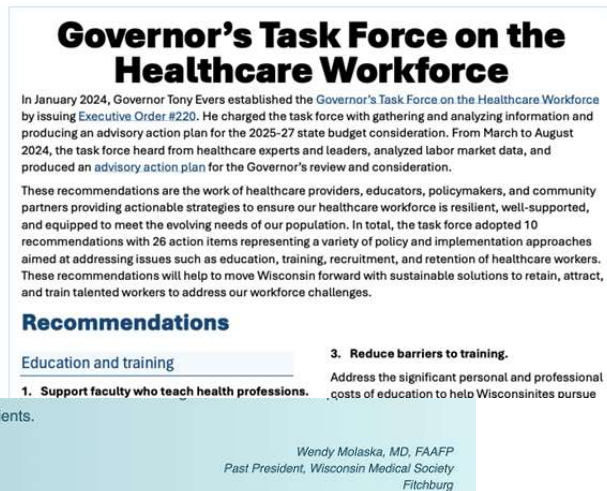
"Eric"
Concord, NH USA
February 1, 2016



17 (2016)
"Maggie"
Concord, NH
June 6, 2016
restrictions



My foray into advocacy



Why is advocacy important?



Why is advocacy important?

Example Legislative Topics

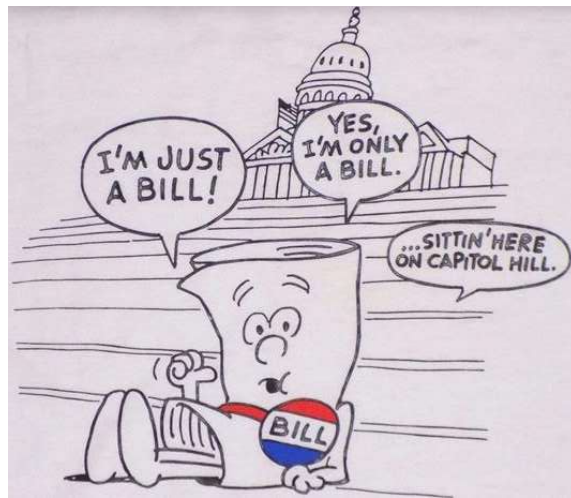
- DPC laws
- Non-compete laws
- Non-physician scope of practice laws
- Prescription dispensing laws
- Climate change
- Social determinants of health
- HSA tax code clarification
- How to keep legislation out of exam rooms - abortion, IVF, drug use, LGBTQIA+
- Budgets - state, local, hospital

Why Advocate?

“Unless someone like you cares
a whole awful lot, Nothing is
going to get better. It's not.”
- Dr. Seuss, The Lorax



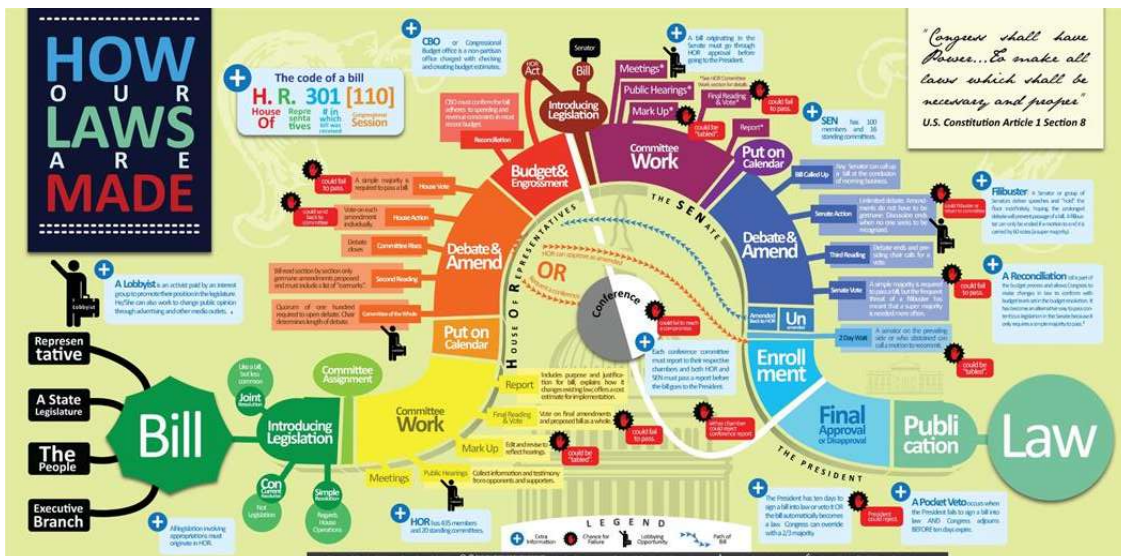
How an Idea Becomes a Law



- "I'm just a bill" by Schoolhouse Rock, 1976

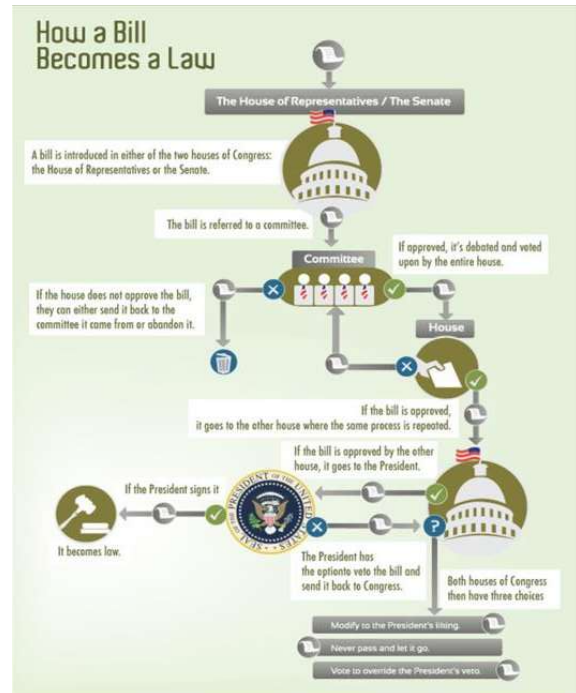


From Bill to Law



From Bill to Law

- Elected legislators introduce a bill
- Committee hearings
- Everyone has to approve:
 - House of Representatives
 - Senate
 - Governor or President



<https://vectorfast.com/infographics-how-a-bill-becomes-a-law/>



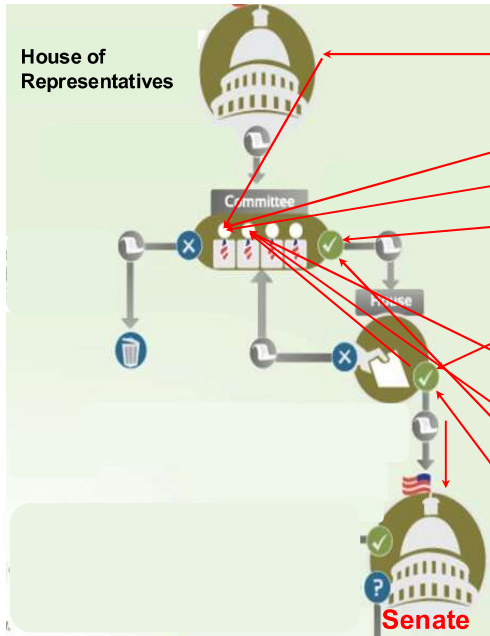
New Hampshire DPC Law

NH 2019 HB508

Relative to direct primary care

Date	Chamber	Action
2019-08-21	House	Signed by Governor Sununu 08/16/2019; Chapter 330; 1. Sec. 1-4 Eff: 10/15/2019 II. Rem. Eff: 08/16/2019
2019-07-29	House	Enrolled 06/27/2019 House Journal 20 P. 59
2019-07-29	Senate	Enrolled (In recess 06/27/2019); Senate Journal 21
2019-07-12	House	Enrolled Bill Amendment # 2019-2659e; Amendment Adopted Voice Vote 06/27/2019 House Journal 20 P. 56
2019-07-09	Senate	Enrolled Bill Amendment # 2019-2659e Adopted, Voice Vote, (In recess of 06/27/2019); Senate Journal 21
2019-06-27	Senate	Conference Committee Report # 2019-2586c, Adopted, Voice Vote; 06/27/2019; Senate Journal 21
2019-06-27	House	Conference Committee Report 2586c: Adopted, Voice Vote 06/27/2019 House Journal 20 P. 32
2019-06-20	Senate	Conference Committee Report Filed, # 2019-2586c; 06/27/2019
2019-06-13	House	Conference Committee Meeting: 06/18/2019 01:30 pm Legislative Office Building 302
2019-06-12	Senate	President Appoints: Senators Sherman, Fuller Clark, Gray; (In Recess 06/06/2019); Senate Journal 20
2019-06-12	Senate	Sen. Sherman Accedes to House Request for Committee of Conference, Motion Adopted, Voice Vote; (In recess 06/06/2019); Senate Journal 20
2019-06-12	House	Speaker Appoints: Reps. Butler, Indruk, Marsh, Campion 06/06/2019 House Journal 18 P. 44
2019-06-12	House	House Non-Concurs with Senate Amendment 1863s and Requests CoC (Rep. Weber): Motion Adopted Voice Vote 06/06/2019 House Journal 18 P. 44
2019-05-15	Senate	Ought to Pass with Amendment 2019-1863s, Motion Adopted, Voice Vote; OT3rdg; 05/15/2019; Senate Journal 16
2019-05-15	Senate	Committee Amendment # 2019-1863s, Amendment Adopted, Voice Vote; 05/15/2019; Senate Journal 16
2019-05-08	Senate	Committee Report Ought to Pass with Amendment # 2019-1863s; 05/15/2019; Vote 5-0; Consent Calendar; Senate Calendar 22
2019-04-17	Senate	Hearings: 04/13/2019 Room 100 Legislative Office Building 02:00 pm Senate Calendar 19
2019-04-12	Senate	Introduced 04/11/2019 and Referred to Health and Human Services; Senate Journal 13
2019-04-04	House	Ought to Pass with Amendment 2019-1184h (NT): Motion Adopted Voice Vote 04/04/2019 House Journal 12 P. 2
2019-04-04	House	Amendment # 2019-1184h (NT): Amendment Adopted Voice Vote 04/04/2019 House Journal 12 P. 2
2019-03-27	House	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment # 2019-1184h (NT) for 04/04/2019 (Vote 14-1; Consent Calendar) House Calendar 18 P. 2
2019-03-15	House	Executive Session: 03/20/2019 01:00 pm Legislative Office Building 302
2019-03-15	House	Full Committee Work Session: 03/20/2019 12:00 pm Legislative Office Building 302
2019-02-20	House	==TIME CHANGE== Public Hearing: 03/05/2019 01:15 pm Legislative Office Building 302
2019-02-15	House	Referred to Commerce and Consumer Affairs 02/14/2019 House Journal 5 P. 16
2019-02-14	House	Ought to Pass with Amendment 2019-0130h: Motion Adopted Voice Vote 02/14/2019 House Journal 5 P. 16
2019-02-14	House	Amendment # 2019-0130h: Amendment Adopted Voice Vote 02/14/2019 House Journal 5 P. 16
2019-02-05	House	Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment # 2019-0130h for 02/14/2019 (Vote 20-0; Consent Calendar) House Calendar 11 P. 7
2019-01-23	House	Executive Session: 01/29/2019 01:00 pm Legislative Office Building 205
2019-01-16	House	Public Hearing: 01/23/2019 10:00 am Legislative Office Building 205
2019-01-15	House	Introduced 01/03/2019 and referred to Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs House Journal 3 P. 17





Introduced to House; Referred to HHS and Elderly Affairs Committee

Public Hearing: HHS and Elderly Affairs Committee

Executive Session

Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment;
(Vote 20-0; Consent Calendar)

Ought to Pass with Amendment; **VV** (HOUSE)

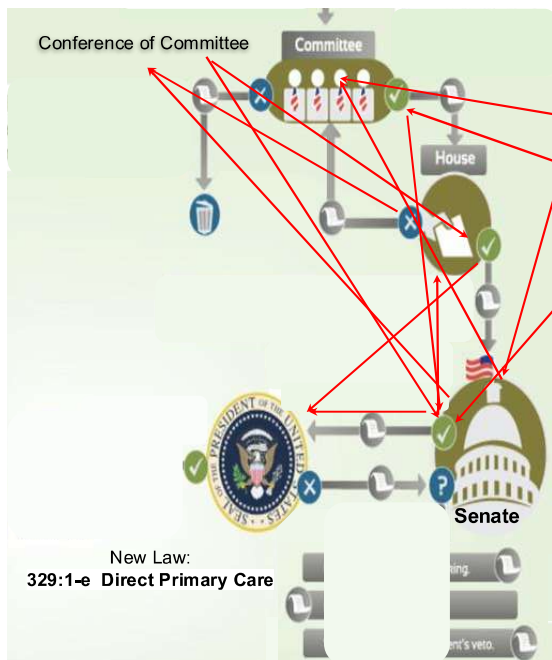
Referred to Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Public Hearing: House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee

Executive Session

Committee Report: Ought to Pass with Amendment;
(Vote 14-1; Consent Calendar)

Ought to Pass with Amendment; **VV** (HOUSE)



Introduced to SENATE and Referred to Health and Human Services

Public Hearing: Senate HHS and Elderly Affairs

Committee Report: Ought to Pass *with Amendment*; **Vote 5-0**

Senate: Ought to Pass *with Amendment*; **VV**

House Non-Concurs with Senate Amendment, Requests Committee of Conference

Sen. Sherman Accedes to House Request for CofC; **VV**

Conference of Committee appointed => Meet => Report

Conference of Committee Report Adopted; **VV** (HOUSE)

Conference of Committee Report Adopted; **VV** (SENATE)

Enrolled; VV (HOUSE AND SENATE)

Signed by Governor Sununu



DPC Legislation

Medicaid Primary Care Improvement Act

H.R. 1162 - Medicaid Primary Care Improvement Act
116th Congress (2019-2021) | [Get Alerts](#)

Bill | [Track](#) | [Comments](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Cori Bush (D-IL-7) (Introduced 02/10/2019)

Committee: House - Energy and Commerce

Latest Action: House - 02/10/2019 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. [View Actions](#)

Tracker: [Introduced](#) [Passed House](#) [Passed Senate](#) [To President](#) [Signed Law](#)

Text: H.R. 1162 — 116th Congress (2019-2021)

Shown Here: Introduced in House (02/10/2019)

H. R. 1162

Primary Care Enhancement Act of 2025

H.R. 1026 - Primary Care Enhancement Act of 2025
118th Congress (2025-2026) | [Get Alerts](#)

Bill | [Track](#) | [Comments](#)

Sponsor: Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX-1) (Introduced 03/05/2025)

Committee: House - Veterans Affairs

Latest Action: House - 03/05/2025 Referred to the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. [View Actions](#)

Tracker: [Introduced](#) [Passed House](#) [Passed Senate](#) [To President](#) [Signed Law](#)

Text: H.R. 1026 — 118th Congress (2025-2026)

Shown Here: Introduced in House (03/05/2025)

H. R. 1026



DPC Legislation

Medication Dispensing Map

Dispensing With Reason?

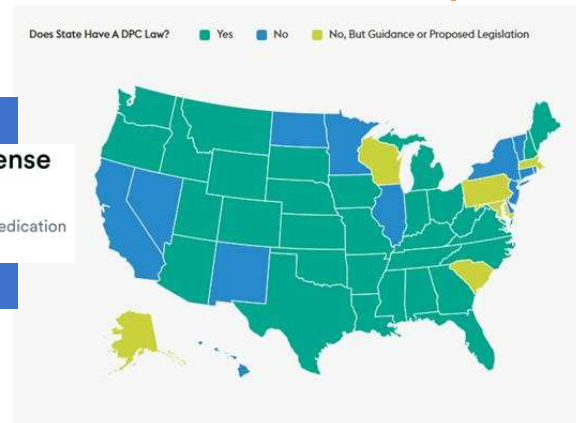
To address the pharmacy crisis, doctors should dispense some drugs

Point-of-care dispensing could ease pressures on pharmacists while improving patient medication access

By Joey Berlin Texas Medicine July 2021

Source: Institute for Justice

DPC State Laws Map



Wisconsin DPC Legislation



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

HOME SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES SERVICE AGEN

2025-2026 Wisconsin Legislature

Senate Bill 4

An Act to create 146.78 and 600.01 (1) (b) 13. of the statutes; Relating to: a

Status: A - Received

Important Actions (newest first)

Date / House	Action
3/19/2025 Asm.	Received from Senate
3/18/2025 Sen.	Read a third time and passed, Ayes 18, Noes 14



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE

HOME SENATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES SERVICE AGENCIES

2025-2026 Wisconsin Legislature

Assembly Bill 8

An Act to create 146.78 and 600.01 (1) (b) 13. of the statutes; Relating to: agreements for direct primary care.

Status: A - Rules

Important Actions (newest first)

Date / House	Action
3/17/2025 Asm.	Referred to committee on Rules
3/17/2025 Asm.	Report passage recommended by Committee on Health, Aging and Long-Term Care, Ayes 12, Noes 3



Advocacy Action Plan

Go Forth and Testify



Tiered State and Local Activity List

Tier 3	Tier 2	Tier 1
“Dip your toes and be informed”	“Speak your voice, learn the ropes”	“Apply strategic advocacy skills”
Lowest level of engagement and least time intensive activities	Moderate level of engagement and time investment	Highest level of engagement and most time intensive

*Adapted from Hawkes Tiered state and local advocacy activity list



Tier 3 Activities

- VOTE in local, state and federal elections
 - [Vote.gov](https://www.vote.gov)
 - [Ballotopedia.com](https://www.ballotopedia.com)
 - [votesmart.org](https://www.votesmart.org)
- Join local/regional specialty and/or medical societies
- Follow social media accounts
 - Local/state/national organized medicine or specialty bodies
 - Special interest or community advocacy organizations
- Sign up for advocacy-focused communications
- Register your opinion with remote sign in on important bills



Tier 3

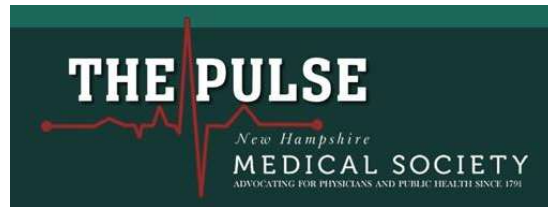
Stay In the loop, learn the landscape



Discussion Forums

- “Slack”
- “Chanty”

- Email
- Websites
- Social Media



Tier 3

Remote testimony

Step 1. Personal Information

All fields required

First

Last

Town

State

Email Address

Step 2. Select Date of the Hearing

Step 3. Select Bill

* Required fields

Select the Committee *

Choose the Bill *

I am: *

I'm Representing: *

Indicate Your Position on this Bill *

- ☒ I Support this Bill
- ☐ I Oppose this Bill
- ☐ I'm neutral on this Bill
- ☐ Testimony is for non-germane amendment

<https://gc.nh.gov/house/committees/remotetestimony/default.aspx>



Tier 3

Remote testimony

Step 4. Upload Remote Testimony (Optional)

Attach document below by clicking the Choose File button and selecting your file (PDF Format Only - 2MB Maximum file size):

No file chosen

OR

Type your testimony Below

Step 5. Final Review

Attention: Information and testimony submitted on this form is entered in to the public record for each piece of legislation and will be considered public records subject to disclosure under the Right To Know Law. Do not submit any personal information you do not wish to disclose publicly. The sign-in sheet will close for purposes of registering your opinion at 11:59 p.m. the day of the hearing.

<https://gc.nh.gov/house/committees/remotetestimony/default.aspx>



Tier 2

Speak your voice directly, learn the ropes

- Join the legislative committee of your local/state organizations and specialty bodies
- Email or call state legislators
 - www.usa.gov/electedofficials
- Submit written testimony
 - House/senate committees, chairpersons, legislative leadership
- Write opinion articles for media outlets or social media



Tier 2

Opinion Editorial

MY TURN

What's behind the criminalization of our health care providers

By NICK PERENCEVICH

On May 1 the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the American College of Physicians, the American Osteopathic Association and the American Psychiatric Association – representing nearly 600,000 primary care providers – signed a joint statement opposing legislation in states, including New Hampshire, which promote interference in the doctor-patient relationship as well as criminal actions against physicians who do not comply.

In our legislature, as of 3 weeks ago, there were 6 House Bills passed, numbers 10, 232, 377, 606, 712, and 732 that have criminal directives against physicians. They range from birth control/abortion communications, breast surgery restrictions, medication directives on hormone and Covid medications, and more. They all called for criminal penalties including incarceration if providers don't comply with the care directives of the bill. For example, HB 377 had

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nick Perencevich, MD is a semi-retired surgeon from Concord who served for 17 years on the New Hampshire Board of Medicine.

entific principles. For the last two years all investigations here in New Hampshire now start with attorneys looking for statute violations and criminal activity. Standard of care and medical ethical issues need initial physician review and it appears that seldom happens.

This all started in 2015 with the creation of the Office of Professional, Licensure, and Certification (the OPLC), which was then promoted as a cost savings by putting all boards under one roof. On April 16, Senate Bill 185 was discussed at an open hearing. It appears that the 15 bipartisan legislators who signed on to the bill were reacting to the complaints from their constituents in regard to the huge backlog of unanswered complaints and suits that all the boards

Medicine, and ask for more criminal action bills and laws. If you feel it's hard to reach your doctor now or you're waiting too long in the ER, plan on it getting harder since your doctor will have left the state for fear of being arrested. This is already starting here in New Hampshire and it's happening big time in Texas because of abortion legislation. In the near future when these bills have all passed and you get really sick at 2 a.m., call the Speaker of the House, President of the Senate, or the Governor. They are the ones now practicing medicine and creating a new type of standard of care.

If you're concerned about the pictured I've portrayed in the previous paragraph you will need to soon contact your senator to oppose these bills and have the governor veto them if passed. Recently, at the State House on May 6, all-day testimony from physicians and the public hopefully convinced the Senate to remove the criminal requirements in four of the bills listed above and instead refer issues to the Board of Medicine. Bill 232 was retained until fall and bill 732 was killed. However, as outlined

- 6 bills passed the house with criminal directives against physicians including jail time
- 2 weeks later, 4 of these were amended to remove the criminal penalty

<https://www.concordmonitor.com/My-Turn-61432820> 05.28.2025



Tier 1 Activities

- Obtain leadership and advocacy training
- Meet with key stakeholders
 - Legislators, state boards, state agencies, professional groups
- Attend strategic planning and negotiation sessions
 - Ad hoc committees, working groups, coalition meetings, etc.
- Testify in-person at public hearings
- Hold leadership positions in advocacy organization



Tier 1

Testify in person



DPC
SUMMIT

Physician Legislators



Representative William Marsh, MD (Left)
Representative Gary Woods, MD (Right)



DPC
SUMMIT

Physician voices are valued

(and DPC docs are particularly well suited)

- Respect
- Time
- Transparency
- Educators
- Avoidance of conflict of interests
- Patient relationships



Physician voices are valued

(and DPC docs are particularly well suited)

Ati Hakimi, MD

Harpreet Tsui, MD

Jack Forbush, DO

John Gross, MD

Kimberly Chapman, MD

Kenneth Qui, MD

Kim Wadsworth, DO

Kelly Green, MD

Lara Briseno Kenney, MD



Physician voices are valued

(and DPC docs are particularly well suited)

Lee Gross, MD

Mary Tipton, MD

Maryal Concepcion, MD

Mike Ciampi, MD

Nick Jones, MD

Phil Eskew, MD, JD

Rebekah Bernard, MD

Shane Purcell, MD

Tiffany Leonard, MD



Pitfalls and Pearls

- Know the players and the positions
- Find common ground
- Understand and respect the position of any organization that you are representing
- Understand that meeting with staffers is important
- Understand the reality of politics \$\$
- Understand the motive behind questions
- Understand unintended consequences of bills



Partner Organizations

- Groups affiliated based on things like trade or industry: doctors groups, medical systems, hospital organizations, employer groups, non-medical community partners
- Or based on areas of interest: climate, abortion, human rights, ethnicity, religion, refugee status, unhoused, children, rural, underserved, etc



Summary

- Advocacy is important
 - Affects us and patients
 - Hyperlocal to national implications
- Speak up
- Reach out to other DPC physician leaders
- Each DPC is different - capitalize on your uniqueness
- Use your expertise to advance policies



How will you get involved?

“If you are not at the table, you are on the menu”

- overused proverb



“When you got skin in the game, you stay in the game
But you don't get a win unless you play in the game
Oh, you get love for it. You get hate for it
You get nothing if you wait for it!”

“In the Room Where it Happens”

Hamilton, The Musical, Lin Manuel

Miranda



References and Resources

- Ho PA, Hawkes A, The C-L Psychiatrist's Practical Guide to Legislative Advocacy Skills—And why it is Imperative for C-L Psychiatrists to Utilize these Skills, *Journal of the Academy of Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry* (2025)
- <https://legiscan.com/about> A central and uniform interface with the ability to easily track a wide array of legislative information. Paired with one of the country's most powerful national full bill text legislative search engines.
- <https://law.justia.com/> Justia's platform provides community knowledge-sharing tools and numerous databases of law and legal information.



Live Content Slide

When playing as a slideshow, this slide will display live content

Social Q&A for From Stethoscopes to Soapboxes: Empowering DPC Physicians to be Catalysts for Change in Healthcare Advocacy



Questions?

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