



# Wyoming Hospital Association

# NEWSBRIEFS

Informational Newsletter for Wyoming Hospitals

**Save The Date**

**WHA Annual Meeting & Convention  
September 5-6, 2018  
Laramie, WY**

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### WHA Calendar

<b>WHA Trustee Education Session</b>	5/17
<b>HortySpringer Conference West Park Hospital, Cody</b>	5/3-5/4

## President's Report Legislative Session Recap

The 2018 legislative session is over and what a session it ended up being. With more than 350 bills drafted in addition to a short 20 budget session, saying things were crazy would be an understatement.

There were many nights that the House stayed in session until after 8:00 with committee hearings being held upon adjournment. Many nights legislators and the rest of us didn't leave the Capitol until after 10:00.

Now that the dust is settling and I'm able to take a look back I consider this session a very good session for our members.

As those of you that participated in the weekly legislative briefing calls and studied the legislative briefing we sent out know, there were a lot of bills this session dealing with healthcare. I watched these all very closely and got involved as needed. In my opinion, there were some very good bills that passed and have been enacted and there were many that didn't pass and that we will not be dealing with in the immediate future.

Bills that we watched with particular interest and were supportive of are listed below:

- **HB36 Move Over Requirement**
- **HB86 Medicaid Birth Cost Recovery**

- **HB99 Prescription and Possession of FDA Approved Drugs**
- **HB157 Healthcare Provider-Sexual Assault**
- **SF41 Organ Donation Promotion-Task Force**
- **SF66 Volunteer Healthcare**
- **SF75 Biological Products-Pharmacies**
- **SF78 Opioid Addiction -Task Force**
- **SF 83 Controlled Substance Prescription Tracking**
- **SF105 Drug Donation Program Act- Expansion**

We also watched and testified on several bills that did not pass but that we may see again in the future including:

- **HB43 Tobacco Tax**
- **HB81 CHIP-State Administration**
- **HB107 Pharmacy Benefit Manager-Prohibited Practices**
- **HB113 Violence Against Health Care Providers-Enhanced Penalty**
- **HB124 Healthcare Transparency Act**
- **HB163 Physician Non-compete Clause**
- **HB183 Limitation on Nursing Home Beds-Repeal**
- **SF43 Organ Donation Training and Timely**

**Postmortem Examination**

- **SF52 Worker's Compensation-Rate Discount**
- **SF85 Certificate of Nonviable Birth**
- **SF88 Healthcare Reform**
- **SF95 Medicare Discrimination**
- **SF97 Medicaid and SNAP Eligibility Requirements**

As you are aware, there was an attempt to pass legislation that would have banned non-compete clauses in physician contracts. We worked hard to either amend the language in the bill to mirror what is allowed by Stark Law or to defeat the bill.

Ultimately, we were able to amend the bill the best we could in committee to reflect the Stark Law but once the bill hit the Senate floor and was debated it did not pass with a vote 5-24. The feeling of the floor was that the bill was discriminatory and should encompass all professions and not just physicians.

They felt the bill inserted government in private industry. They also saw that the bill was brought forward because of one individual legislator's personal interest and I was extremely happy when the bill was voted down.

### PAC CONTRIBUTORS 2018

**Irene Richardson**  
**Heidi Baskfield**  
**Barry Burkart**  
**Wyo Behavioral Institute**  
**Eric Boley**  
**Doug Faus**  
**Shelby Olind**  
**Doug McMillan**

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**Don't forget to send us a story about your hospital so we can feature you in our Member Spotlight**

After two years of testifying and trying to amend the volunteer healthcare bill so that it was a program that would work in Wyoming and that we could be supportive of, we decided to really get involved this year and help draft good policy. We spent the interim working with the Judiciary Committee and after bringing in our own legal team we were able to help create what I believe will be a program that may benefit citizens of the state by providing free healthcare while protecting the providers and the facilities that are delivering the care.

I am not sure this program will be a big one but it may help some of the citizens and also take the burden of delivering uncompensated care in our ERs, hospitals and clinics.

There are two other topics of legislation that I believe we will see again. I believe we will see increased pressure on hospital and providers to provide better transparency in their pricing. There is legislation moving forward in Colorado right now during their session and other states are working on better transparency.

I also believe we will see future attempts to include work

requirements for Medicaid recipients. Utah just passed legislation last week to expand Medicaid to individuals up to 100% FPL and included a work requirement. They will need to now apply for a waiver from CMS and I guarantee our legislature will be watching Utah and the other 10 states that are trying to institute work requirements.

Finally, I want to talk about violence against healthcare workers. I know this is a real issue in our state and around the country. While the bill that would have increased the penalty against those hurting our workers failed, the issue is not dead. I have asked that this topic be an interim topic and am optimistic that the Joint Labor, Health and Social Services Committee will work on this during the next year.

I believe there is good legislation out there from other states and I believe there are best practices we can learn from to help protect healthcare workers in Wyoming. I am a huge advocate for you and your teams and I believe we need to bring awareness and protection to those that care for the sick and afflicted.

I am grateful to all of you for your grassroots efforts during the session. Your voices are what

make my efforts successful. The legislators take your feedback much more seriously than just hearing from me. I am grateful that each time I sent out a plea for help you all reached out and let your local representatives know how what they were or were not doing would affect you, your staff, your facilities and your patients. I am humbled and honored to represent you.

In conclusion, this is a big election both within Wyoming and nationally. The WHA/AHA PAC is a valuable and powerful tool that we can use to support candidates who are supportive of hospitals and the patients we serve. I encourage all of you to get involved and to contribute to the PAC. We are already a quarter of the way to meeting our annual fundraising goal with the AHA and I would like to add to the state PAC.

The PAC committee will meet this year to make recommendations on where money should go and which candidates should be supported in their bid for election.

**PLEASE CONTRIBUTE  
AND GET INVOLVED!**



## Thanks To Our Nurse-For-The-Day Volunteers

We would like to thank the following nurses who volunteered their time to be at the Legislature.

- **Emily Heidemann**, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center
- **Kristen Hefenieder**, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center
- **Tracey Causey**-Banner Wyoming
- **Carole Jones**-Weston County Health Services
- **Marisha VanVleet**-Rocky Mountain Care
- **Jennifer Burns**-WY State Board of Nursing
- **Anne Raga**,-Campbell County Health
- **Kristen Kohlbrand**-Weston Health Services
- **Cynthia Labonde**-WY State Board of Nursing
- **Jannene Sebesta**, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center
- **Marianne Denton**, Cheyenne Regional Medical Center
- **Abby Bremer**-Banner Wyoming South
- **Pete Skorez**, Laramie
- **Sherri Rubio-Wallace**, Fay Whitney School of Nursing