



Public Policy/Political Advocacy by SCMS for Members – The Value Proposition from the 2010 Priorities and Focus Goals



We often hear from you, our members, and others, in and outside of this community, about how active the SCMS is in advocating for your interests. For us, that means consistently and successfully advocating for laws in collaboration with the WSMA, to your ability to practice medicine in the patient's best interest and advantage in the Spokane Region. The SCMS, as a unified society with the WSMA, has paid staff in Olympia to support this advocacy. We track legislation and speak to elected officials on your behalf. It's a resource open to all members, no matter what your specialty or practice size. I recently had the pleasure of traveling to Olympia to advocate for physician interests, and I'll do it again in D.C. in March in conjunction with the AMA.

We want your feedback: How can we help improve your professional pursuits? What do you most need government to do (or not do)? We're listening. Contact Keith Baldwin, CEO, SCMS: keith@spcms.org.



SCMS Members Travel to Olympia to Visit Legislators intent on Protecting Medicaid Funding and Reducing Barriers to Patient Care



We know you're concerned about the cost of managing your practices, especially in this tight economy and with the threat of reduced fees from the SGR Formula. That's why SCMS leaders recently traveled to Olympia, urging state lawmakers to secure adequate funding for the Medicaid budget, especially for Interpreters. Drs. Deb Harper, Dean Martz, Courtney Clyde, and Gary Knox as well as Keith Baldwin, CEO, talked to legislators and others including Governor Christine Gregoire and the Secretary of the Department of Health about Spokane Region priorities in the face of a \$2.6

billion state budget gap. "We're trying to protect (what we have) to prevent damage from being done," said Keith Baldwin.

The group visited Olympia January 24-25 to present the SCMS/WSMA unified agenda. The 2010 priorities include initiatives critical to Medical Assistance, Basic Health Plan, Interpreter Services, and other Budget items, to also include Mandatory CME for Pain Narcotics, Emergency Care Reimbursement and Ban on Balance Billing, Wrongful Death, and Fraud Legislation.

The WSMA Legislative Summit is key to advocating for physician issues in the Spokane Region and is especially crucial during this budget crisis, as physicians are already being pressed by fee reductions. Everyone knows that the burden for balancing the budget shouldn't all fall on healthcare and especially the direct patient providers in our area.

For a sound bite on what it is like to be in Olympia, take in the TVW video of Dr. Courtney Clyde testifying at the Senate Health and Long Term Care Committee on the SCMS website, www.spcms.org.