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KMA, Physicians Have Another Successful Legislative Session

The practice of medicine in Kentucky will become a little easier thanks to legislation passed in another successful session for the Kentucky Medical Association, local medical societies and physicians throughout the Commonwealth.

With a new Republican majority in the House of Representatives, a bill establishing Medical Review Panels passed and is the first step in achieving tort reform in Kentucky. Senate Bill (SB) 4, sponsored by Sen. Ralph Alvarado, M.D., R-Winchester, requires medical malpractice cases to go before Medical Review Panels—consisting of a group of independent, expert health care providers who offer an opinion on the merit of medical malpractice cases—before they can be filed in court.

After the bill easily passed the Senate in early January, the House passed the bill 51-45 with some changes March 1 and the Senate concurred with those revisions 25-11 March 6. Gov. Matt Bevin signed the legislation March 16.

KMA has long supported efforts to improve Kentucky's

medical liability climate and that's why the Association once again made tort reform central to its advocacy efforts in 2017. SB 4 is a critical part of that work and represents a significant first step in creating a more fair and consistent legal climate for Kentucky health care providers.

Another KMA priority bill, SB 89, will ensure the treatment physicians prescribe for their patients who want to quit smoking will be covered. The bill requires both private insurers and the state's Medicaid MCOs to cover tobacco cessation medicine and services recommended by the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. Studies show that smokers have more success quitting when they work with their physicians. This legislation was sponsored by Sen. Julie Raque Adams, R-Louisville.

The Senate passed the bill 35-2 Feb. 22 and the House followed suit March 14 on a 90-1 vote. The bipartisan support for the measure indicates the impact smoking has on Kentucky, which has one of the nation's highest smoking rates. The Commonwealth spends \$1.92 billion annually in smoking-related health care expenditures.

KMA's third priority bill, SB 86, which was aimed at changing

domestic violence reporting requirements, was included in language added to House Bill 309 and passed the Senate with a committee substitute March 29 on a 37-1 vote; the House concurred with the Senate changes and approved the legislation 94-0 March 30.

The legislation, proposed by the Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence and sponsored by Sen. Alvarado, removes a potential barrier for individuals who want to reach out for services. Research by the University of Kentucky found that if women know in advance that their case would be reported, they are significantly less likely to report abuse or contact a domestic violence shelter. The legislation amends the state's domestic violence reporting law by eliminating direct reporting by health care providers to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. Instead, providers would link victims of domestic and dating violence to protective services for those who choose to accept them.

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KMA, Physicians Have Another Successful Legislative Session



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Other Legislation Affecting Physicians

Prescription Limitations: House Bill 333 would make it a felony to illegally sell or distribute any amount of fentanyl, carfentanil and related drugs tied to an increase in drug overdoses in Kentucky. It also contains a provision to limit prescriptions for Schedule II controlled substances used to treat acute pain to three days, but includes several broad exceptions.

Direct Primary Care: SB 79 defines "direct primary care

membership agreement" and sets conditions for services under such an agreement. Direct primary care allows physicians to contract directly with patients to provide services covered by a set monthly fee without the involvement of insurance. This new law allows the model to be used more in the Commonwealth without added barriers such as being inaccurately characterized as an insurance product.

Mammography: HB 78 requires providers of mammography services to provide specific information to patients whose X-ray mammogram shows dense breast tissue.

Experimental Treatments: SB 21 permits eligible patients to use investigational drugs, biological products or devices for a terminal illness and prohibit sanctions for health care providers who are working with the patient.

Immunizations: SB 101 allows a pharmacist to administer any immunizations for children ages 9 to 17 pursuant to prescriber-approved protocols and consent of a parent or guardian.

Cory Meadows, Director of Advocacy & Legal Affairs, KMA



May 4, General Membership Dinner

June 11-13, AMAA Annual Meeting

June 20, NKMS Executive Board Meeting

July 18, NKMS Executive Board Meeting

August 11, Summer Social

August 25-27, KMA Annual Meeting

September 19, NKMS Executive Board Meeting

October 5, Meet Your Legislators Dinner

November 14, NKMS Executive Board Meeting

December 8, NKMS Holiday Party

NKMS Alliance Report

Well, 2017 is clipping along really fast! The NKMS/NKMSA members have been busy in KMA and KMAA. We had several physicians and alliance members attend the KMA Day at the Capitol in Frankfort. President, Mark Schroer and NKMS, hosted a very nice dinner the evening before the Day at the Capitol to allow members to network with each other and Pat Padgett (EVP of KMA) and Chris Hickey (EVP of LMS). Several Residents from SEH attended the event, as well as, several medical students from both UK and UL.



Residents from SEH



Medical Students from UK & UL

Save the Date for June 12, 2017 to join us at the AMA meeting in Chicago to install our own Past NKMSA President, Kim Moser as President of the AMA Alliance. We are so proud of Kim and have a very nice reception planned with the theme "Blue jeans, Boots and Bluegrass". Please join us. Information is on nkms.org website.



Nancy Swikert, MD President, NKMSA, KMAA, and KMA

President's Report

It looks like spring has finally sprung. I am sure we are all looking forward to enjoying the good weather. Before we all run outside to play, I want to tell you about some activities NKMS has been involved in and some upcoming events.

First off, we had a great showing from NKMS during Physician's Day at the Capitol. By my count, 14 physicians from Northern KY made the trip. I want to thank all those who took the time to go. I am hopeful that we made an impact. Suffice it to say, we actively engaged several of our legislators. I want to emphasize the words 'actively engaged'. Remember to stay in contact with our elected officials. It takes more than one day to get things done.

Looking ahead, keep October 5th open. This is the date of our "Meet your Legislator" dinner. Politicians respect numbers. Wouldn't it be great if we had a large number show up that night? Bring a friend, or two!

I want to also encourage you to attend our General Membership meeting, May 4th, at the Lisse Restaurant. This should be an entertaining and informative dinner with guest speaker, Dr. Steven Shama. I think you will find he has some good tips for our own physician health.

Finally, a word about the heroin epidemic; clearly this is the biggest public health issue affecting our community. Physicians must be engaged in the process of finding a solution. Let me repeat that so my meaning is clear to all. **Physicians must be engaged.** I am talking about doctors who see patients - "docs in the field". The NKMS is currently working to be a part of finding a solution. Please call me if you want to get involved.

As always, feel free to call me if there are any issues that concern you. I want to help!



Featured left to right: Dr. Joseph Temming, Dr. Teresa Koeller, Dr. Mark Schroer & Dr. Sofia Qureshi



Mark Schroer, MD, President, NKMS

NKMS Speakers Bureau

Please consider volunteering your time as a speaker for the NKMS Speakers Bureau. Engage the public with a real sharing of your expertise. Share the knowledge you already have in a variety of forums. This can be leading a small group session, volunteering in the classroom or giving a traditional lecture with Q&A. Likewise, if you have an event and are in need of a speaker, we are happy to

assist and locate a speaker for you.

If you are interested in being a member of the NKMS Speakers Bureau please contact Dr. Mark Boyd by email mark.boyd@stelizabeth.com.



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Northern Kentucky's
Physician Network

Address Correction Requested

NKMS Foundation

In 2013 the Northern Kentucky Medical Society Foundation established a scholarship with the University of Kentucky. The scholarship is awarded annually to a 3rd or 4th year medical student in the amount of \$15,000.00 per year. The first recipient to receive the scholarship was Dr. Megan Schneider (2013 and 2014) and the second recipient was Sarah Nester (2015 and 2016). We are pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2017 scholarship is Zachary Grove.



Featured left to right: Dr. Nancy Swikert, Dr. Eric Neils, Dr. Mike Gerwe, Zachary Grove, & Dr. Susan Bushelman



Featured left to right: Dr. Mark Schroer, Zachary Grove & Dr. Nancy Swikert



Featured left to right: Dr. Mark Schroer, Zachary Grove, Dr. Megan Schneider, Dr. Nancy Swikert & Dr. Mike Gerwe