



# Legislative Report 2017

Wyoming Medical Society



## State Budget Cuts Dominate Legislative Session

*Wyoming Physicians may feel pinch of cuts through Medicaid Reimbursement*

The memories of the 2017 Legislative Session for those who were close to it will revolve around constant concern for a state budget and the impact that debate about state cash had on civility and hours in the state’s temporary capitol The Jonah Building in Cheyenne.

“I am still recovering,” said Senator Bill Landen (R-Casper) during Wednesday’s Natrona County Medical Society Legislative Review in Casper. “This has been one of the tougher sessions in my 10. I have never put in those types of hours.”

Our friends at the Wyoming Taxpayers Association, led by the state’s former top number cruncher Buck McVeigh, tells us 2017 supplemental appropriation agreed on by the Joint Conference Committee



Wyoming State Senator Charles Scott (R-Natrona) makes a point during the Natrona County Medical Society’s Legislative event at the Casper Country Club Wednesday, March 8. Scott is flanked by (from left) Sen. Bill Landen (R-Casper), Sen. Drew Perkins (R-Natrona), and Natrona County Medical Society President Joe McGinley, MD, PhD to his right.

amounted to \$279 million in net appropriation reductions in the general fund. As a part of the legislature’s efforts to cut, they trimmed 167 state positions. Many of those

net losses of jobs come in the form of not hiring for unfilled positions, however, there

**See page eight for Budget**



Wyoming Governor Matt Mead signs SF0088 - Palliative Care into law Thursday in Cheyenne.

## Palliative Care Task Force Gets Blessing From Lawmakers

The passage of Senate File 0088 will lead to the development of an advisory committee on palliative care in Wyoming. The Governor will appoint 13 committee members from a number of walks of life including physicians, law enforcement, spiritual leaders, and reps from groups like the American Cancer Society. For a bill that seemed very likable at first blush, there was an odd amount of controversy surrounding the concept. SF88 squeaked

out of the House Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee due to concern that the bills asks WDH to perform more duties without new funding or personnel.

Upon third reading in the House there were questions regarding the bill on everything from how to take care of a dying loved one’s opioids to concerns that the bill opens the door for Medical Marijuana. Eventually cooler heads prevailed and the bill passed.

MORE UPDATES ON THE 2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION INSIDE

*Prevention Funding Guttled from Budget/ Page 3*

*Proposed list of interim topics for 2017/ Page 4*

*Tobacco Tax Dies After Much Debate/ Page 2*

# How the WMS Determines Its Positions on Individual Bills

The Wyoming Medical Society (WMS) ranks among the most respected advocacy groups in the state capitol and a big reason for that is the transparency of its policy decisions. However, it is equally important for Wyoming Medical Society members to understand how those policy decisions are made.

The WMS Board of Trustees is composed of executive officers and up to 16 county component society seats, who provide state-wide representation. Retired physicians, Physician Assistants, Residents, Students are also represented on the WMS Board. The Board of Trustees meets quarterly with the meetings being held annually with the WMS year starting July 1. The meetings are scheduled for October, January, April, and the final meeting held in conjunction with the WMS Annual Meeting in June.

During the winter meeting the Board spends the bulk of its time reviewing bills which have dropped on the Legislative Services website, bills that are coming out of joint interim legislative committees, as well as bills which the organization has been contacted about by individual legislators. In some cases, the bills are conceptual,



Wyoming Medical Society Executive Director Sheila Bush leads a discussion among the WMS Board of Trustees regarding policy positions for the 2017 Legislative session during the Board's January meeting in Cheyenne.

but in others, the legislation has been released in draft form.

The Board of Trustees then examines the concepts and language of the bills, comparing them against the legislative pillars which were set by the Board of Trustees in previous meetings. Those pillars include: Access to care for Wyoming's patients; medical liability reform; program funding for Medicaid, physician recruitment,

WWAMI, and the UW Family Practice Residency, Scope of Practice concerns, as well as tobacco prevention/public health and safety.

During the winter meeting the Board offers guidance to WMS Executive Director Sheila Bush on whether the WMS will support, oppose or monitor specific bills. At that point it is up to Director Sheila Bush to take those positions to the lobby of the House and Senate.

## Abortion bills Lead to Concerns About Physician-Patient Relationship

Two abortion-related bills passed through the Senate this session - HB116 and HB182. Just to recap, WMS takes no position on abortion. However, WMS does fiercely protect the patient-physician relationship and works to defend the rights of physicians to practice medicine without government intrusion. WMS lobbying efforts around any subject center around these philosophies.

As originally written, HB116 prohibited giving, transferring, selling, and/or distributing aborted fetal tissue or cells for experimentation. Amendments were offered by WMS and to address unintended consequences which would have stopped diagnostic testing inside the circumstances of an abortion, including D&C procedures. Thanks to the work of Senator Charlie Scott and Tara Nethercott, the amendments were adopted.

HB182: Abortion - Ultrasound Information, passed the Senate Monday morning. The bill instructs physicians to offer pregnant women the opportunity to view an ultrasound prior to an abortion. WMS opposed this language on principle of preventing government intrusion in the physician-patient relationship and the precedent that passage of this bill would set for including prescriptive clinical measures in statute. The bill includes no enforcement, penalties, or documentation.



State Rep. Michael Madden (R-Buffalo) and Senator Ray Peterson (R-Cowley) will lead the Joint Interim Revenue Committee's study of tobacco taxes and cigarette taxes this interim. Last month a tobacco tax increase of \$.30 per pack was voted down.

## Two Proposals for Tobacco Tax Increases Fail

A pair of bills which sought to increase the cigarette tax in Wyoming failed this session. HB151 - Tobacco Tax: would have offered an increase of \$.30 per cigarette pack but was voted down in the Senate Revenue Committee.

The bill was not supported by the American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network, which has asked for an interim study in hopes of seeing a higher tax increase on all tobacco products.

Another bill, would increase cigarette taxes, but also would have raised the tax on other forms of chewing tobacco by \$.60 up to one ounce. The issue will be studied in the interim.

# Acupuncture Practice Act Passes

A bill to create a board to oversee acupuncture in Wyoming passed out of the Legislature but not before it was amended to remove licensed physicians from the requirements of Acupuncture Board.

House Bill 165 was sponsored by Co-Chair of the Joint Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee, Rep. Eric Barlow (R-Campbell County). It sought to provide some oversight of acupuncture as a modality of care in Wyoming. The bill succeeded in establishing the Wyoming Board of Acupuncture, which starting Jan. 1, 2018 requires a person to be licensed in accordance with the Acupuncture Practice Act. This leaves only Oklahoma, Arkansas, and South Dakota as states which do not license acupuncture.

Testimony from committee meetings suggested Wyoming had begun to attract acupuncture practitioners from states where they had previously lost their license.

**In its original form**, the bill was known as the Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine Act and included an attempt to regulate those who practice oriental medicine. While there is a Master's Degree level educational path for oriental medicine, there was concern about regulating oriental medicine inside of this bill given many of the herbs used in oriental medicine are not regulated by the federal government. WMS testified in committee that it was concerned about the area that defined oriental medicine as primary care and hoped that piece would not confuse patients.

## Prevention Funding Slashed in 2017 Session

The Wyoming Department of Health has been a common place for cuts to the state budget over the past year and this year one of the deeper cuts to its programming came to the Tobacco Prevention and Control Program (TPCP) as well as the Substance Abuse and Prevention Program (SASPP) There is a reduction of \$2.1 million in Fiscal Unit 550, which will impact the state in fiscal year 2018 with a reduction expected to carry forward at the same level in the next biennium.

The TPCP provides evidence-based tobacco prevention and control and cessation strategies through Wyoming Quit Tobacco Program. The SASPP focuses on reducing consumption and associated negative consequences of alcohol and other drugs such as opioids and works toward addressing factors that put people at risk for, or protect

them from, suicidal behaviors.

Between reductions to the program this year and last year, less than 10 percent of the original state general funding is available for the unit for the rest of the biennium. The Wyoming Department of Health reports prevention efforts took a \$2.1 million hit for the biennium during the Governor's budget reduction in June. This led to decreased funding for community prevention services, elimination of a planned advisory council to focus on prescription drug abuse and alcohol issues, and reduction in evaluation services.

As a result of reductions, the state's biennial prevention funding is now around \$1.3 million for substance abuse and suicide prevention funding and \$2.9 million for tobacco prevention and control.



Wyoming State Senator and Kemmerer Physician Assistant Fred Baldwin offers his thoughts during a committee meeting during the 2017 Session.

## Immunity for Opioid Overdose Reporting Dies

Among the surprises of the Senate's final week was the killing of HB062 - Immunity for Drug Overdose Reporting. The bill would have provided immunity from prosecution of specified offenses under the Wyoming Controlled Substance Act of 1971 to persons who report or experience an emergency drug overdose event.

Certain members of the Senate questioned whether the bill would actually save lives, while others felt it offered hard-core drug users the state's blessing to continue using opioids recreationally. The bill flew through committee in the House and Senate before working through the House by a 50-8 vote. The third reading vote that killed the bill was 15-15 in the Senate.

On Wednesday night in Casper, Senator Drew Perkins (R-Casper), said the devil is always in the details of such bills.

"The feeling in the Senate was around the free ride being given to those who have reported the overdose," he said. "We could see scenarios where we let people walk for substantial offenses."

A pair of bills which would make it easier to get naloxone for those in the midst of opioid overdoses met differing fates. A bill which would make the drug legal over-the-counter was defeated. Another bill which will allow pharmacists to write prescriptions for Naloxone, as well as physicians passed. The bill will also let the prescriptions be written to an entity such as a fire department or a city.

# *Preview of Coming Events:* Subcommittees Plan Their Interim

While the 2017 Legislative session is complete, it is never too early to think about next year and the Legislature is doing exactly that. The last week of committee meetings in the Capitol were spent discussing committee study topics to talk about before next year's session. Among the committee topics of interest to Wyoming physicians are:

## **Joint Judiciary Committee**

- Volunteer Health Care. The committee will consider ways to provide healthcare to low-income persons; volunteer healthcare through the Department of Health; and provide legal protection through The Wyoming Governmental Claims Act.

## **Joint Revenue Committee**

- Review of Fees, including a review of fees charged for vital records.
- Tobacco and alcohol taxes, including taxation of cigarettes sold on Wind River Indian Reservation as well as a review of cigarette, tobacco, and alcohol taxes in general.

## **Joint Education Committee**

- A review of the education provisions necessary for children placed in Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES) group homes and residential treatments for medical necessities.

## **Joint Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee**

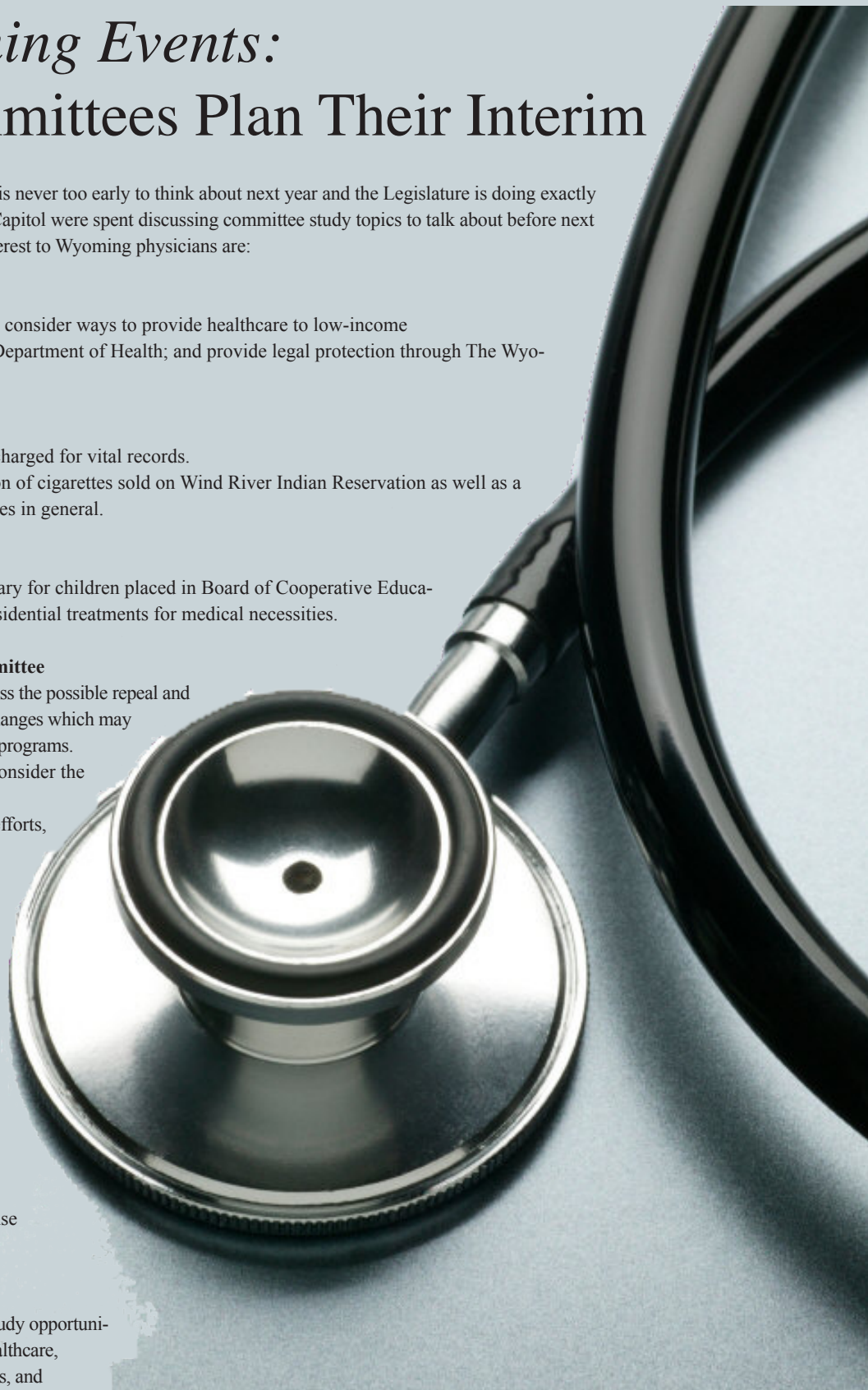
- Response to Federal Actions, which will address the possible repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act and changes which may be necessitated to the Medicare and Medicaid programs.
- Mental Health/substance abuse which will consider the continuum of care in the Title 25 system;
- Nursing shortages and outreach/recruitment efforts, as well as other health workforce issues;
- Monitor healthcare provider reimbursement rebasing, as well as the viability of providers offering services to developmentally disabled persons;
- Provide input to UW's studies and medical education, including its Wyoming Family Practice Residency Programs, and WWAMI;
- Solicit public and agency data proposals for healthcare reform;
- Multi-payer claims database, the development and use of databases and the results from the current contract;
- Wyoming's Health Information Exchange, electronic medical records and meaningful use requirements.

## **Select Committee on Tribal Relations**

- The committee will examine healthcare and study opportunities for expanding and improving access to healthcare, including state reimbursement of tribal services, and past Medicaid waivers and requests for waivers on tribal members to health care.

## **Joint Legislative and Executive Task Force on Department of Health Facilities**

- The Task Force will continue its work on making renovations and improvements to state healthcare facilities in Lander and Evanston.



# What's in a Name?

## Wyoming Medical Society Protects Term Physician

While it seemed insignificant to some, the importance of retaining the title of physician was made apparent to the House Health Labor, and Social Services Committee on Jan. 23. House Bill 107 was a straightforward bill of just a page and a half, which would allow the state's chiropractors to call themselves chiropractic physicians.

However, it was the concern of the Wyoming Medical Society and other entities such as Blue Cross Blue Shield that the bill would have further implications than just a name change on the front door. Wyoming Medical Society Executive Director explained that the Medical Society believes fully that chiropractors should be fairly compensated for the codes they bill, however the state's physicians remain in opposition to the bill on the grounds that the name physician denotes a certain level of scope, and training. Bush also referenced a study by The American Medical Association which suggests patients prefer to have physicians keep that title for clarity purposes.

Supporting the Medical Society's position was the Wyoming Hospital Association, which said the name physician offers a very specific definition, which makes training and services clear to patients.



Wyoming Medical Society Executive Director Sheila Bush testifies on House Bill 107 on January 23 in Cheyenne. Bush and the Wyoming Medical Society came out against the bill.

Allowing chiropractors to use the term physician would only muddy those waters.

There was also a concern brought up that allowing chiropractors to use the word physician could open the number of insurance codes chiropractors are allowed to bill for and equate to an expansion of scope of practice.

"If the intent is to change statutory title to access physician codes it is debatable to whether this does that," Bush told the committee. "If it might, then we have an issue with expansion of scope happening through a one page bill to change

their title."

The committee would also ask questions regarding any implications such as increased costs to the state, and asking what the name physician actually means and whether it had been discussed to bring chiropractors in under the Board of Medicine's prevue. Board of Medicine Director Kevin Bohnenblust said that in his 10 years that has not been discussed and most boards prefer not being under the control of another profession.

After an hour of debate the bill would die in committee by a 2-8 vote.

WYOMING MEDICAL SOCIETY  
WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS  
ANNUAL MEETING  
June 2-4  
JACKSON LAKE LODGE | MORAN, WY

A large graphic of the number 2017, where the digits are filled with a wood grain texture. The number is set against a teal background.

## OTHER BILLS FOLLOWED BY THE WYOMING MEDICAL SOCIETY IN 2017

As it does every year the Wyoming Medical Society follows a number of different bills during the legislative session. Here is a rundown of other bills the WMS had an interest in during the 2017 session.

### SENATE BILLS

**SF021 - Death Certificates:** AN ACT relating to vital records; providing that an advanced practice registered nurse or physician assistant may complete the medical certification of a death certificate as specified. **Bill has been signed into Senate Enrolled Act 0066.**

**SF031 - Genetic Information Privacy:** AN ACT relating to genetic information privacy; prohibiting the collection, retention and disclosure of genetic information without informed consent as specified; providing exceptions; providing for the retention and destruction of genetic information; providing criminal penalties; providing for a civil cause of action. **Bill passed the Senate and House but was vetoed by the Governor**

**SF062 - Telepharmacy amendments:** AN ACT relating to the practice of pharmacy; amending provisions related to the practice of telepharmacy; and providing for an effective date. **Bill has been signed into Senate Enrolled Act 0049.**

**SF066 - Title 25 Payment Obligation - Federal Entities:** AN ACT relating to the hospitalization of mentally ill persons; specifying the entities from whom payment for treatment shall be sought. **Bill passed the Senate, and House, signed into Senate Enrolled Act 0042.**

**SF067 - CHIP program amendments:** AN ACT relating to the child health insurance program; amending program benefits. **Bill passed the Senate, and House, signed into Senate Enrolled Act 0029.**

**SF069 - Small Employer Health Insurance Amendments:** AN ACT relating to insurance; amending the small employer health reinsurance program; repealing unnecessary provisions; **Bill passed the Senate, and House, signed into Senate Enrolled Act 0028.**

**SF082 - CPR graduation requirement:** AN ACT relating to education; requiring students to complete instruction on emergency medical treatment to graduate high school; requiring school districts to offer that instruction; requiring rulemaking; providing applicability. **Bill failed third reading in the Senate.**

**SF99 Community and rural health clinic grants-sunset date** - Community and rural health clinic grants-sunset date: AN ACT relating to community health centers and rural health clinics; amending the sunset date for provisions related to grants for capital construction and startup costs for community health centers and rural health clinics. **Bill has been signed into Senate Enrolled Act 0068.**

**SF105 - Uniform Power of Attorney Act:** AN ACT relating to powers of attorney; creating the Uniform Power of Attorney Act; providing definitions; providing for applicability; requiring notice to agents or fiduciaries under powers of attorney as specified; repealing provisions related to durable powers of attorney. **Bill passed the Senate, and House, signed into Senate Enrolled Act 0041.**

**SF116 - Medicaid Expansion Authorization:** AN ACT relating to Medicaid; requiring collaboration concerning the expansion of Medicaid eligibility; authorizing the expansion of Medicaid eligibility as specified; requiring reports and notice as specified;. **Bill died.**

**SF121 - Wyoming Pharmacy Act Amendments:** AN ACT relating to the Wyoming Pharmacy Act; modifying grounds for suspension and revocation of pharmacy licenses; modifying responsibilities of the secretary of the state board of pharmacy; modifying provisions related to examination and reexamination; modifying mailing requirements for license renewal notices and examination notices; removing authorization for the board to credit continuing education units to another year; modifying drug substitution procedures; authorizing pharmacists to dispense biosimilars as specified; modifying definitions; removing obsolete language; repealing provisions related to pharmacist

pedigree documents. **Bill has been signed into Senate Enrolled Act 0082.**

**SF143 - Child Health Insurance Program Management:** AN ACT relating to health insurance; providing for the administration of the child health insurance program by the department of family services; providing for the transfer of positions, property, personnel and funds associated with the program to the department of family services. **Bill has died.**

### HOUSE BILLS

**HB017: Adult Protective Orders - Time Limit Extension:** AN ACT relating to adult protective services; extending the permissible period for emergency service. **Bill has passed the House and Senate and assigned House Enrolled Act 0002.**

**HB072 - Volunteer Health Care:** AN ACT relating to public health and safety; authorizing the department of health to contract for volunteer health care services; providing immunity to medical professionals and health care providers who provide volunteer health care under contract as agents of the state; authorizing licensing boards to provide continuing education credit as specified; amending definitions under the Wyoming Governmental Claims Act. **Bill has died**

**HB073 - Interference with a Person Providing Emergency Services:** AN ACT relating to crimes and offenses; establishing the crime of interference with a person providing emergency services; providing penalties. **Bill has passed the House and died for lack of introduction in the Senate.**

**HB081 - Hemp Extract Amendments:** AN ACT relating to public health; providing for administration of hemp extract by a parent to an adult dependent; authorizing hemp extract for treatment of an adult as determined by a physician. **Bill has died.**

**HB0107 - Chiropractic Physicians:** AN ACT relating to chiropractic practice; providing for use of the title chiropractic physician; and providing for an effective date. **Bill has died.**

**See page seven for more House Bills**

## OTHER BILLS FOLLOWED BY THE WYOMING MEDICAL SOCIETY IN 2017

**HB112 - EMS Interstate Compact:** AN ACT relating to emergency medical service licensure; adopting the recognition of emergency medical services personnel licensure interstate compact; allowing EMS personnel in one compact state to exercise practice privileges in other member states; approving and specifying terms of the compact; making conforming amendments. **Bill passed the House and Senate and has been signed into House Enrolled Act 0030.**

**HB122 - Death with Dignity:** AN ACT relating to public health and safety; allowing an attending health care provider to prescribe medication that will end a terminally ill patient's life; providing qualifications; providing requirements to health care providers; providing a procedure to request medication; providing reporting requirements; authorizing rulemaking; providing immunity for persons in compliance with the act as specified; providing penalties; specifying applicability; providing definitions. **Bill has died.**

**HB148 - Tobacco Cessation and treatment programs:** AN ACT relating to public health and safety; requiring the department of health to develop and implement statewide tobacco prevention, cessation and treatment programs and provide materials as specified; and providing for an effective date. **Bill died in committee.**

**HB156- Involuntary commitment-emergency detention amendments:** AN ACT relating to involuntary commitment; amending provisions related to emergency detentions. **Bill has passed the House and Senate.**

**HB164 - Professional licensing boards - telemedicine/telehealth:** AN ACT relating to professions and occupations; allowing licensure boards to promulgate rules related to telemedicine/telehealth as specified. **Bill has been signed into HEA 0053.**

**HB184 Involuntary Commitment - Appointment of Gatekeepers:** AN ACT relating to involuntary commitment; amending provisions related to the designation of gatekeepers. **Bill has died.**

**HB185 - Safety Restraints - violations:** AN ACT relating to safety belt usage; repealing the prohibition on halting a motor vehicle solely for a safety belt violation. **Bill has died.**

**HB197 - Marihuana and THC products policy reform act:** AN ACT relating to controlled substances; providing penalties for possession of marihuana in plant form and tetrahydrocannabinol products in specified amounts; creating an elevated misdemeanor offense for possession of such products as specified; making a conforming amendment. **Bill has passed the House and Senate and been sent to the Judicial Conference Committee.**

**HB215 Drug-induced infant endangerment:** AN ACT relating to crimes and offenses; creating the crimes of drug induced infant homicide and drug induced infant abuse; amending definition of abuse for provisions related to child protective services as specified; providing enhanced penalties in cases where a person delivers controlled substances to a pregnant woman; providing for presumptions and affirmative defenses; **Bill has died.**

**HB232 - Drugs and substance control:** AN ACT relating to controlled substances; prohibiting the attorney general from adding, deleting or rescheduling controlled substances by emergency rule; and providing for an effective date. **Bill has died.**

**HB241- Background checks - interstate compacts:** AN ACT relating to criminal history records; authorizing licensure boards to obtain criminal background checks for health care professionals licensed pursuant to an interstate compact entered into by the state of Wyoming. **Bill has been signed into House Enrolled Act 0092.**

**HB247: Medical Marihuana Reciprocity:** AN ACT relating to possession of marihuana; providing that possession of marihuana pursuant to a medical marihuana card or prescription issued in another state is lawful as specified. Bill introduced and referred to Judiciary. **Bill has died.**

**HB250 Public Health Statutory Amendments:** AN ACT relating to public health; amending enforcement and penalties for violation of public health laws; amending a felony offense related to sale of organs or body parts; amending requirements for obtaining blood samples from pregnant women; amending abortion reporting; creating a criminal offense for false reporting on an abortion form; repealing penalties; conforming provisions. **Bill has died.**

**HB265: Plant derived medication:** AN ACT relating to public health; allowing supervised use of plant derived pain medication as specified; providing an exemption from prosecution for possession or use of plant derived pain medication; authorizing a fee for registration. **Bill died in committee.**

**HB0291: Department of Health Facilities:** AN ACT relating to department of health facilities; providing authorization for construction and renovation at the Wyoming state hospital and Wyoming life resource center; providing an appropriation for the construction and renovation at the Wyoming state hospital and Wyoming life resource center; providing a contingent appropriation with authority for an interfund loan for the construction and renovation at the Wyoming state hospital and Wyoming life resource center; reappropriating funds related to the level III design study for the Wyoming state hospital and Wyoming life resource center; continuing the task force on department of health facilities; specifying duties of the task force; repealing prior law related to the task force; providing an appropriation for the task force. **Bill has passed the House and Senate and Signed into HEA 0038.**

**HJ008 - Federal responsibility for American Indian health care:** A JOINT RESOLUTION requesting Congress to uphold the federal trust responsibility to provide for the health care needs of American Indians. **Bill has passed the House and Senate and has been signed into HEJR0001.**

## Budget

*Continued from Page One*

are another 90 which the Governor may be required to find and eliminate over the next year and change. The hope is those 90 positions can be found through attrition.

The need to save state dollars led to another reduction in the budget for the Department of Health which saw a net decrease of \$92 million from the general fund. The cuts to the Health Department will be largely felt in the arena of lost jobs which were previously unfilled, including a number of nursing positions at the Wyoming State Hospital in Evanston, as well as other facilities.

Wyoming's physician population may not be exempt from the cuts. Joint Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee Co-Chair Senator Charles Scott (R-Casper) suggested Medicaid comparatively high reimbursement rates in Wyoming has long been above other states but it might not be there much longer. He said the state is looking for more savings from the Medicaid program and there is simply little left to cut.

"You might see a decrease in Medicaid reimbursement," Scott told the crowd in Casper on Wednesday. "But one problem with gutting Medicaid programs is that most of the expense comes from nursing homes and adult developmental disability programs, which are up to 90 percent dependent on Medicaid dollars."

After Scott's mention of Medicaid reimbursement, the conversation would later

## WWAMI THANKS WYOMING LAWMAKERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT



**Among the highlights of the Legislative session is the WWAMI Legislative Reception, which allowed lawmakers to meet students in the WWAMI program, while gaining a better understanding of the program's impacts on Wyoming. This year's luncheon was held at the Cheyenne Depot on Feb. 17.**

move to whether a meaningful co-pay could help Medicaid patients consider whether an appointment was necessary. Suggestions of \$2 for a visit to a physician and perhaps \$10 for an ER visit were floated, though Scott said in the past those co-pays have been more trouble to collect than they were worth.

While the conversation on Wednesday was largely centered around the 2017 session there was talk of what might happen next year if changes to the Affordable Care Act are made. Scott said it is possible the state receives a Medicaid block grant to

use largely in the ways the state sees fit. Sen. Drew Perkins (R-Casper) said the advantage he sees of the state not expanding Medicaid last year is that it doesn't need to concern itself with unwinding the programs now. He said he understands the federal government may fund the block grants to the level of previous years. There is some concern that states who expanded Medicaid when available may receive higher block grants to reach their previous year's levels of Medicaid usage while those states who didn't expand are stuck with the levels they used a year ago without expansion.

## WMS THANKS ITS 2017 DOCTORS OF THE DAY

Wyoming Legislators and Capitol staff have come to depend on the presence of health care providers at the Jonah Building each day. Thank you for your dedication to Wyoming medicine and the sacrifices you make to be able to volunteer each year.

Casey Berry, MD  
Larry Kirven, MD  
John Healey, MD  
Joe McGinley, MD, PhD  
Doug Parks, MD  
Jasper Jay Chen, MD  
Evan Norby, DO

Carol Wright-Becker, MD/Grant Berry, MD  
Mahalia Marcotte, MD  
Afzel Khan, MD  
Amy Shaw, PA-C  
Christian Flanders, MD  
Megan Schaaf, MD  
Michael McGlue, MD

Kim Westbrook, MD  
Kimberly Broomfield, MD  
David Fall, MD  
Dean Bartholomew, MD  
Cameron Grove, MD  
Ron Malm, DO  
James Bush, MD