

ADVOCACY

Advocating for Wyoming Doctors and their Patients Since 1903

Bills of Note

- [Senate File 42 - Opioid Overdose Emergency Treatment](#) which would allow pharmacists to prescribe Narcan or Nalaxone in addition to physicians, passed through the House of Representatives. It now goes to the Senate.
- [Senate File 67 - CHIP Program Amendments](#) was signed into Enrolled Act 29. This would require CHIP remain a managed health care system.
- [House Bill 165 - Acupuncture Practice Act](#) has passed the House and Senate, though the Senate amended the bill and will send it back to the House for concurrence. Big changes included appropriating \$15,000 to administer the new board.



Almost there...

Thirty-two days into the 2017 Legislative session the temporary Capitol in Cheyenne offers a combination of fatigue from the first seven weeks and an excitement in that the end of the session could come in as few as five days.

The Legislative budget process got underway a couple weeks ago when a budget presented to the chambers by the Joint Appropriations Committee in the House and Senate was debated on both chambers of the Legislature. Then, last week House and Senate leadership began to reconcile their budgets into one budget they can send to the Governor's desk. The preliminary version of that single budget will go to the Governor's desk. From there, the Governor can either offer a line-item veto should he not agree with the budget entries he is provided. Those vetoes could be overturned by the Legislature with a two-thirds vote.

The first version of that budget has not yet been released. Once it is, WMS will offer an overview on how healthcare-related efforts in Wyoming are impacted.



WMS Doc of the Day

Thank you to our volunteers who serve the Wyoming Legislature and staff during the session. WMS is proud of our physicians who care for our Senators and Representatives.

- Kimberly Broomfield, MD
- Christian Flanders, MD
- Michael McGlue, MD
- Megan Schaaf, MD

WMS still needs Docs of the Day on the following dates:

- March 2

For more information on the program, click [here](#). To volunteer click [here](#).

Keeping you connected

To keep an eye on the latest bills the WMS is following, check out: <https://www.wyomed.org/2017legislative-session>.

To listen to debate in the House or the Senate click [here](#).

Two abortion bills passed through second reading in the Senate this week - [HB116](#) and [HB182](#) and face third readings on Monday. As written, HB116 prohibits giving, transferring, selling, and/or distributing of aborted fetal tissue or cells for experimentation, which WMS interprets to include diagnostic testing and research. An exemption was made for aborted tissue/cells in cases of natural miscarriage, however abortion procedures to save the life of the mother, terminal genetic abnormalities in the fetus, or any other medically necessary abortion are not currently exempted. The bill makes physicians and patients felons with fines of not less than \$10,000 and imprisonment for consenting, aiding or abetting said sale, transfer, distribution or other unlawful disposition of fetal tissue or cells. Among WMS concerns about the bill are government intrusion in medicine. WMS is attempting to amend the language to respect the intention of the sponsors without stopping parents from doing diagnostic testing inside of often tragic circumstances.

[HB182: Abortion - Ultrasound Information](#), passed second reading in the Senate Friday morning. As amended the bill instructs physicians to offer pregnant women the opportunity to view an ultrasound prior to an abortion. The bill includes no enforcement, penalties, or documentation. 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. WMS believes that government will never be able to keep pace with advances in medicine and giving physicians statutory prescriptive measures in caring for patients goes far beyond the appropriate role of government.

There was one major change on 182, which no longer requires a physician to get a signed statement acknowledging a patient was given the option for an ultrasound.

[Senate File 88 - Palliative Care](#). The bill which would develop a advisory committee on palliative care in Wyoming. The bill squeaked by 5-4 out of the House Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee. There is concern on the committee that the bills asks Wyoming Department of Health to perform more duties without new funding or personnel. It will be debated by the House this week.

If you have interest in talking with your Senator about any of these pieces of legislation visit the state Legislative Services Office website and searching for your Senator by clicking [here](#).