

# ADVOCACY

Advocating for Wyoming Doctors and their Patients Since 1903

## Legislative Lingo

*A few terms used at the State Capitol by lobbyists and legislators alike.*

- **Sideboards:** Easily the most commonly heard term on the House floor this year. The intention of putting "sideboards" on a bill means the bill is meant to address a very specific item and have no impact on anything else.
- **Concurrence:** When a bill passes one chamber (House or Senate) and receives amendments during passage from the other chamber the bill must go back to the originating chamber for concurrence, which means approving the added amendments.
- **"Play Ball."** Yelled by Green River Rep. Stan Blake after each day's Pledge of Allegiance in the House.



## Money Often Costs Too Much...

Ralph Waldo Emerson's quote has rung true this week at the State Capitol as the need to reduce the state's budget due to falling mineral royalty payments has resulted in the Legislature reducing its spending on worthy efforts, including everything from state employee salaries (a proposed 2 percent cut) to school funding.

Last week the Legislature started its budget process by amending - adding or removing money - from the state's supplemental budget presented to the chambers by the Joint Appropriations Committee in the House and Senate. Starting this Tuesday, the House and Senate leadership will take those individual budgets and reconcile into one budget they can send to the Governor's desk.

**To get a sense of the sometimes baffling process of a state budget,** consider the case of Title XXV funding. After the JAC recommended a \$3 million appropriation to pay for Title XXV emergency detentions and involuntary commitments, the money was removed and then added back into the House bill. Senator Bruce Burns (R-Sheridan County) offered an amendment, which passed on the Senate



## 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.

- Larry Kirven, MD
- David Fall, MD
- Dean Bartholomew, MD
- Kim Westbrook, 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](#).

side, to remove that \$3 million if House Bill 151 - the cigarette tax - failed, which it did. It had been suggested around the Capitol that the \$3 million in the JAC budget for Title XXV would come through new cigarette tax cash, making it an interesting bargaining chip.

Later in the process, Burns brought an amendment that would allow \$15 million for Title XXV funding subject to the approval of the Governor. The bill also requires the Department of Health to offer a quarterly report on Title XXV to the Joint Labor Health, and Social Services Subcommittee on how much it is spending on Title XXV.

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.

**Tobacco, suicide, and substance abuse prevention** funding has been struggling to gain traction this Legislative session and Prevention went from being completely wiped out to getting a \$1,000,000 appropriation from the Senate. It will be interesting to see if that gets through the reconciliation process as the House seemed to have little appetite for it.

The horse trading for state funding continues next week when the House and Senate budget committees begin negotiations. Stay tuned.

**Two abortion bills** - HB116, which amends existing statute prohibiting sale, transfer, distribution or donation of any live or viable child for purposes of experimentation, and shifts it to include any tissue or cells from an aborted child. HB182, which requires a physician offer a woman interested in an abortion a view of an ultrasound, have been scheduled for debate on the Senate floor, but haven't yet been discussed.

WMS has no position on the pro-life vs. pro-choice debate and WMS is not aware of any members who perform these procedures on an elective basis. At the direction of the WMS board, staff has lobbied these bills on the principle that placing prescriptive clinical standards in law perpetuates the notion that Wyoming's physician community needs policing by the legislature. These bills often send a message that Wyoming has a problem with our physicians and the public is in need of the legislature's involvement to instruct physicians on how to practice medicine. WMS fiercely protects the physician-patient relationship and the rights of our physicians to practice medicine without unnecessary government interference. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact a member of leadership, or [Sheila Bush](#), as we are happy to talk in more detail about these WMS policy positions.