

# ADVOCACY

Advocating for Wyoming Doctors and their Patients Since 1903

**Bills of interest** to the Wyoming Medical Society are tracked on a spreadsheet and regularly updated. To access the spreadsheet, [CLICK HERE](#). The WMS Board of Trustees establishes positions on legislation on behalf of the association. Any member is welcome to request that WMS reconsider a position on an issue, or take another issue under review

## Up Next Week:

Leadership pushed deadlines back a day requiring bills to be out of committee in the second chamber by Tuesday, March 6. Of the 35 bills on watch with WMS, 16 have failed while 19 continue to move through the process. Ten of those 19 bills must be passed out of Committee by Tuesday.



## A Sometimes Messy Process

### *Physicians defeat Senate File 85*

Otto von Bismarck and his famous words, “If you like laws and sausages, you should never watch either one being made” get repeatedly quoted for a reason, and this week proved to be no exception. Senate File 85 - Certificate of nonviable birth, served as one of the hotter topics of debate heading into this third week with WMS leading things off with a change in position. The WMS leadership moved from monitoring SF85 to actively advocating for its failure after an overwhelming number of WMS members expressed their desire for WMS to oppose the bill.

SF85, in its amended form, would have made optional certificates of nonviable birth available to women, upon request, who suffered early pregnancy loss between weeks 9 and 20 weeks gestation. WMS providers from across the state collectively advocated that while the proposal likely had good intent, such a certificate would likely serve to exacerbate grief in an already difficult time and lacked sound medical judgement. The language in the bill was not medically accurate, and was interpreted as the legislature’s desire to specifically prescribe the



## 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.

- Evan Norby, DO
- Joe McGinley, MD
- Mark Wefel, MD
- Kimberly Broomfield, MD

## How To Connect:

The Wyoming Legislature is beta testing a new website and it's wonderful! To check out the new experience and get acquainted with a far easier way to navigate legislative bills, legislative contacts and session schedules, visit <http://lso.wyoleg.gov/>.

practice medicine. WMS took a strong stand against the bill for these reasons and ultimately witnessed its demise on Tuesday with a vote of 12 in favor and 18 opposed.

WMS tips its hat to the bill's sponsor, Senator Brian Boner, for his commendable efforts in working with our group and his attempts to amend the bill to a place of compromise. In the end we couldn't get to a common ground, but look forward to working with him in the future. A sincere thanks to the 18 members of the Senate who defended the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship and stood with Wyoming's physicians on this failed proposal. If you get a chance, please extend a thanks to the following senators

*Jim Anderson - S28*

*Liisa Anselmi-Dalton - S12*

*Bruce Burns - S21*

*Cale Case - S25*

*Leland Christensen - S17*

*Hank Coe - S18*

*Ogden Driskill - S01*

*Affie Ellis - S08*

*Fred Emerich - S05*

*John Hastert - S13*

*Dave Kinskey - S22*

*Bill Landen - S27*

*Glenn Moniz - S10*

*Tara Nethercott - S04*

*Stephan Pappas - S07*

*Chris Rothfuss - S09*

*Michael Von Flatern - S24*

*Jeff Wasserburger - S23*

## Budget Heads to Conference Committee

Both chambers finished floor debate this week sending each respective chamber's budget bill to conference committee (JCC). JCC is where a select group of legislators from both the House and Senate will attempt to find common ground crafting one consensus version of the budget to bring back to each chamber for approval.

Although both sides started with the same version of the budget bill, the two government funding proposals now look quite different, reflecting the varying priorities and philosophies within each body. The House of Representatives submitted 61 second reading budget amendments of which 16 were adopted. Six of the second reading amendments directly impacted the Dept. of Health and of those six, four were adopted. The House added more than \$10 Million to the Dept. of Health's budget focusing funding efforts on the developmentally disabled and the Wyoming Pioneer Home in Thermopolis.

Third reading in the House brought slightly fewer amendments but still resulted in some impressive totals at 52 introduced amendments, with only 13 of those garnering the votes needed for success. To offer some perspective, the House proposed a total of 113 budget amendments of which they adopted only 29 while the Senate brought forward a total of 73 amendments and adopted 52. Interestingly, this means the House only managed to pass 26% of their amendments while the Senate passed more than 70% of the budget amendments they proposed.

**Physician advocacy** didn't let up this week with WMS advocates testifying on a variety of issues in both the House and Senate. Below are a couple of the legislative proposals on which WMS weighed-in.

**HB99 - Prescription and possession of FDA approved drugs:** Unanimously passed Senate committee with support from the board of pharmacy and WMS. The FDA is set to approve a number of new cannabis-derived medications in the coming year and current Wyoming statute only allows for forms of dronabinol to be prescribed. This bill allows providers to prescribe any FDA approved medication, including those derived from cannabis.

**HB157 - Health care providers-sexual assault protections-2:** earned the spotlight in highlighting how well the process can work when groups partner together. Originally proposed as a bill with unreasonable mandates for chaperones and universally required criminal background checks in the name of protecting patients, the new version of the bill represents compromise and meaningful protections for both patients and providers. HB157 is a substitute bill without any criminal background check language and instructions for every healthcare licensing board to conduct comprehensive review of their own chaperone requirements to ensure language is up to date and in line with current best practices. The most important aspect of HB157 is the statutory changes to definitions of second degree sexual assault in Wyoming's criminal code. WMS, the WY Board of Medicine, and the WY Nurses Association all testified in support of this legislation helping it pass Senate committee unanimously on Friday.

## Bills That Have Failed

- **HB11** - Professional licensing time limit regarding convictions
- **HB43** - Tobacco tax
- **HB62** - Hemp extracts amendments
- **HB73** - Safety belt usage
- **HB81** - CHIP - state administration
- **HB87** - Dept. of Health and Dept. of Family Services Combined
- **HB96** - Healthcare provider - sexual assault protections
- **HB107** - Pharmacy benefit managers prohibited practices
- **HB113** - Violence against a healthcare provider - enhanced penalties
- **HB124** - Health care transparency act
- **HB145** - Pharmaceutical manufacturers - promotion of off-label use
- **HB148**: Medicaid and SNAP eligibility
- **HB151** - Naturopathy licensing board
- **HB158** - Governmental immunity - waiver for health care facilities
- **SF85** - Nonviable Birth Certificates
- **SF88** - Health care reform



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