

# #16

**COMPLETE**

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### Q1 What is your name and Candidate Committee name?

**First and Last Name:** Shaun Sims  
**House/Senate District:** Senate district 15  
**Preferred Email:** Simsshaun@yahoo.com

### Q2 What is the role of state government in healthcare issues in Wyoming? Describe your top three priorities for improving the healthcare delivery system in the state?

1. **Help to promote more urgent care type facilities in areas that hospitals are not readily available.**
2. **Promote or incentivize recruitment for more doctors in areas that need more physicians**
3. **Continue to enhance the States ability to care for the mentally inferm and those patients that are long term residents to the Wyoming State Hospital.**

**Q3 Wyoming's tobacco tax rate of \$.60 per pack ranks 8th lowest in the nation. The national average is \$1.72 per pack. Given the state's declining revenue and Wyoming's low tobacco tax, is increasing the tobacco tax a subject you feel worthy of consideration in the coming biennium? If you do support the tax increase is it primarily based in an interest to generate state revenue or as a method to de-incentivize tobacco use, or both?**

**Yes I support increasing the tobacco tax.**  
 Please Explain:  
 Both.

**Q4** Physicians in Wyoming are required to attend continuing medical education (CME) to maintain their licensure in the State. Many physicians are now also taking part in maintenance of certification (MOC) programs to maintain board certification. MOC programs include more stringent continuing education requirements often at a higher cost, and generally involve high-stakes testing in order to maintain certifications. Wyoming physicians support continuing education requirements, but oppose mandates to maintain board certification. Do you support tying a physician's employment, reimbursement, or licensure to their participation in MOC activities?

**No, physician board certification should not be allowed to be tied to state licensure, employment, hospital privileging, and/or reimbursement.**

Please explain.:

Doctors should take part in continuing education and MOC to improve their knowledge and expertise. I believe there are ways to accomplish this and encourage doctors to continue MOC programs to improve healthcare for their patients without the additional level of regulation.

**Q5** With 32 percent of Wyoming's population being covered by public payers (Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, Federal programs, etc), and current projected budget shortfalls, how would you prioritize reimbursement to physicians? Please explain.

At this time due to my lack of knowledge I do not feel comfortable answering this question. I will learn more about this issue and if allowed provide an answer in the future.

**Q6** WMS supports physician-led healthcare teams with each licensed provider practicing at the top of their scope. Do you support licensed healthcare professionals expanding their scope of practice or increasing the specific tasks they can perform, such as psychologists prescribing or optometrists performing eye surgery, through rule making or legislation without proof of adequate expanded education, training and curriculum changes?

**No, healthcare providers should only expand scope of practice when done through increased education, curriculum changes in training programs and stringent testing to determine proficiency.**

Please explain:

Rule making and legislative changes do not make a doctor proficient at performing additional specific tasks that they have not been trained to perform. Only through approved training, education, and an accreditation program should a doctor perform expanded procedures.

**Q7** The demand for mental health services in Wyoming is on the rise with involuntary hospitalizations increasing at alarming rates. Suicide also remains a concern with Wyoming ranking as the fourth-highest state in the nation. Between the increase in demand for state mental health services and recent overages in the state budget for Title 25 costs, what do you believe can be done to positively impact these trends?

I would support a thorough vetting process of those persons being involuntarily hospitalized to provide assurances that their condition warrants involuntary hospitalization.

I firmly believe that a public education program that helps people understand, identify, and seek help for those people suffering from suicidal thoughts or actions. The need to overcome the stigma of depression that keeps people from seeking treatment also needs to be addressed in a positive manner so that they can seek help and a treatment plan. Prevention of suicide is by far the most economical avenue.

**Q8** Would you support legislation to resolve the professional liability crisis in Wyoming? Specifically, would you support a cap on non-economic damages? Would you support other remedies such as adoption of the English rule, no-fault medical liability insurance or other such reforms?

I support investigating alternative means to achieving liability reform but do not support capping non-economic damages.

**Agree**

**Q9** WMS advocates for physicians to practice evidence-based medicine grounded in the latest research and safety standards. WMS opposes any legislation that attempts to unnecessarily insert government within the relationship between physicians and their patients as it hinders the ability for doctors to administer the most recent, evidence based, practices in medicine. Do you oppose legislation that unnecessarily inserts government between a physician and a patient?

**Yes, I oppose state legislation that inserts government between a physician and a patient.**

,  
Please  
explain:

I don't support government inserting itself into the doctor - patient relationship. The doctor, patient relationship is inviolate.

**Q10** Do you support expanding Medicaid to provide state-based insurance to uninsured Wyomingites for 10% of the cost to the State of Wyoming?

**No,**

Please  
explain:

I believe every avenue should be pursued to get all persons a level of insurance before adding more costs to the state of wyoming.

**Q11** Please send me additional information about the following topics:

Please send information regarding question number 5.

**Q12** Does your candidate committee accept Political Action Committee (PAC) contributions?

Yes