



WYOMING  
MEDICAL  
SOCIETY

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



## 2026 BUDGET SESSION

### Week Two Recap

#### [2026 WMS Bill Tracker](#)

Wyoming's 68th Legislature continued its work this week in the 2026 Budget Session, moving at a rapid pace consistent with the session's tight 20-day schedule. Notably, the House will convene on Saturday, February 21, rather than recessing on Friday as is customary. The adjusted schedule stems from what has been informally referred to around the Capitol as "checkgate," a controversy involving the distribution and acceptance of checks that has consumed valuable floor time during an already compressed session. Extended debate, points of order, and procedural maneuvering related to the issue have slowed floor action and, at times, shifted attention away from substantive policy deliberations.

As expected in a budget session, the budget bill remains front and center. However, the two chambers have taken markedly different approaches. In the House, members brought forward more than 100 amendments to the Joint Appropriations Committee (JAC) bill, with nearly all failing. In contrast, the Senate adopted an amendment reverting the budget largely back to the Governor's recommended levels. As a result, the House and Senate now hold significantly different versions of the budget bill, setting up substantial negotiations in the days ahead to reconcile competing fiscal priorities.

#### **Healthcare-Related Activity This Week**

Legislative focus this year continues to be heavily weighted toward reproductive health issues. Several proposals have advanced in the House of Representatives. Both **[HB3: WY Pregnancy Centers-Autonomy and Rights](#)** and **[HB4: Birthing Centers-Medicaid Coverage](#)** have passed the House and have been introduced & referred to Senate Labor, Health and Social Services Committee.

As of Friday afternoon, **[HB117: Stop harm-empower women with informed notices](#)** and **[HB126: Human heartbeat act](#)** were still making their way through the House process. HB117 specifically proposes new requirements for abortion informed consent, including a mandated 24-hour waiting period and a requirement for physicians to assess for coercion. While HB117 is available on [theWIRE](#), WMS cannot publicly engage on the bill until it reaches the required 20% membership threshold. Members interested in the legislation are encouraged to contact their Representatives or Senators to share their views.

While the House worked through abortion bills, the Senate focused on other health-related legislation, including bills on Title 25 final determination hearings, pharmacists' scope of practice, and a prohibition on Kratom. WMS actively advocated for Wyoming physicians on two key Senate bills: **[SF23: Outpatient examination and commitment length](#)** and **[SF121: Wyoming Pharmacy Act Amendments](#)**. WMS advocated for physicians and PAs by emphasizing the importance of collaborative partnerships across healthcare professions. Thanks to the efforts of WMS advocates and member input, both SF23 and SF121 were amended before progressing further. More detailed information on these two bills is below for any of our members with interest in either legislative proposal.

WMS will continue monitoring all healthcare-related legislation and advocating for policies that support access, workforce sustainability, and the stability of Wyoming's healthcare delivery system.

### SF23: Outpatient examination and commitment length

The Wyoming Title 25 Statutes currently include a broad range of healthcare professionals—from psychiatrists and psychologists to family and marriage counselors—in the definition of an "examiner." Under the existing law, any of those providers can conduct the final determination exam outlined in section 110 of the Act. In current law, if the examiner conducting the final determination examination is someone other than a physician, psychiatrist, or psychologist, the court is automatically required to seek a secondary

review of that examination. Today, the law requires that the secondary review be conducted by a physician, psychiatrist, or psychologist.

SF23, as amended, removes the automatic requirement for a court-mandated secondary review if a nurse practitioner (APRN) or physician assistant (PA) conducts the final examination. It adds APRNs and PAs to the list of providers for which a secondary review of the final determination exam is not required or automatically triggered for the courts.

A secondary review would only be triggered if the final determination examination is conducted by someone *other* than a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, PA, or APRN.

If passed, the bill would also expand the list of professionals authorized to conduct these secondary reviews to include PAs with documented education, training or expertise in mental health and psychiatric nurse practitioners.

## SF121: Wyoming Pharmacy Act Amendments

The bill amends the Pharmacy Practice Act by revising the definition of the “practice of pharmacy” to more clearly and comprehensively outline the scope of services pharmacists are authorized to provide. As originally introduced, the legislation updated the definition to include activities such as interpreting and dispensing prescriptions, providing patient counseling, initiating pharmacist care services, and engaging in collaborative pharmaceutical care.

WMS worked closely with stakeholders and legislative sponsors to refine and further amend the bill to ensure that collaborative pharmaceutical care remained clearly defined and appropriately structured. The committee amended the bill to reflect those efforts, and now the Senate floor must adopt and hold those changes. The legislation also lowers the minimum age for pharmacist-administered vaccinations from seven years old to three years old.

## HB 122: Rural Health Transformation

### Rural Health Transformation

Wyoming's Rural Health Transformation Program award (\$205 million in year one) and the package of initiatives Wyoming proposed to stabilize rural hospitals and providers requires Legislative action in order to implement the plan. The bill passed in the House and is The Wyoming Rural Health Transformation Program (HB 122) has also passed in the House and is now on the Senate side for consideration.

## MEMBERS SET WMS POLICY

### theWIRE

The role of the WMS Member voice in determining the association's advocacy positions and efforts was significantly increased two years ago when the Board voted to restructure the advocacy process within the organization. WMS will preserve precious and finite political capital and resources by reserving public advocacy efforts, including public testimony, to those issues that gain 20% of WMS member engagement on [theWIRE](#).



For all other bills being tracked by WMS, our advocacy team will represent the Board's Advisory Position in individual conversations and interactions as we work to educate and advise lawmakers on important health policy decisions impacting WY.

Instructions on how to login and use theWIRE are below. **Please remember that all members in good standing with WMS are invited to post their own proposal for member voting and comment on theWIRE.**



To cast your vote on WIRE proposals, [CLICK HERE](#) (or the link in the button below) to access THE WIRE. Members can also access THE WIRE from the WMS website at [www.wyomed.org](http://www.wyomed.org)

#### How to use The Wire:

- Log on - <https://thewire.wyomed.org/>
- The Wire uses the same username and password as you use to login to the WMS website to manage your membership. If you have forgotten your username or password, you can use the forget password feature on The Wire to reset it.
- To view proposals - select "Proposal Feedback" at the top of the screen

- Click on "Pre-Board Feedback"
- Click on the title link to vote/share your opinion on a topic

Members are also welcome to contact a member of the WMS staff for assistance in utilizing THE WIRE.

## PLEASE VOTE: PROPOSALS WAITING INPUT

### HB3 - Autonomy for Pregnancy Crisis Centers

**HB 3: WY Pregnancy Centers - Autonomy and Rights** continues to need WMS member input. 60 of the required 200 votes have been cast for WMS to take a public position on this bill.

**BILL STATUS**

*Introduced and Referred to Senate Labor Health and Social Services*

#### HOUSE BILL 3

Autonomy for Wyoming Pregnancy Centers

Advocacy Threshold:  
20% of membership (200 votes)

Votes Required:  
200

Votes Cast So Far:  
60

**CLICK HERE TO VOTE**



6 | 51 | 3

### HB117 - Stop harm-empower women with informed consent

**House Bill 117: Stop harm-empower women in informed consent** continues to need WMS input. 59 of the required 200 votes have been cast for WMS to take a public position on this bill.

**BILL STATUS**

*Introduced and Referred to Senate Labor Health and Social Services*

#### HOUSE BILL 117

Stop harm-empower women with informed notices

Advocacy Threshold:  
20% of membership (200 votes)

Votes Required:  
200

Votes Cast So Far:  
59

**CLICK HERE TO VOTE**



4 | 54 | 0

### SF23 - Title 25 Final determination exams

**SF23 - Outpatient examination and commitment length** continues to need WMS input. 68 of the required 200 votes have been cast for WMS to take a public position on this bill.

**BILL STATUS**

*Introduced and Referred to House Labor Health and Social Services*

#### SENATE FILE 23

Outpatient Examination & Commitment Length

Advocacy Threshold:  
20% of membership (200 votes)

Votes Required:  
200

Votes Cast So Far:  
68

**CLICK HERE TO VOTE**



41 | 21 | 6

### SF48 - Stem Cell Freedom Act

**SF48 - Stem Cell Freedom Act** continues to need WMS input. 52 of the required 200 votes have been cast for WMS to take a public position on this bill.

**BILL STATUS**

*Introduced and Referred to House Labor Health and Social Services*

#### SENATE FILE 48

Authorization of Stem Cell Therapy Not Yet FDA Approved

Advocacy Threshold:  
20% of membership (200 votes)

Votes Required:  
200

Votes Cast So Far:  
52

**CLICK HERE TO VOTE**



16 | 29 | 7

## ADVOCACY PROCESS

# WMS Advocacy Process

Board Advisory Opinions & Society Position Setting Via The WIRE



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(click the image above to see a larger image)

## WANT TO OPT OUT OF LEGISLATIVE UPDATES?

We get it. Not everyone wants blow-by-blow accounts of the legislative activity in Cheyenne. If this is you, we understand. Please don't unsubscribe from our mailing, but instead, let us know below by clicking the **"thumbs down"**. We will assume that you are okay with receiving our less frequent and general membership updates but would like to be removed from the daily update list. We will do our best to get you removed so we don't clutter your inbox with information you don't want.

Click that "Thumbs Down" to be removed from the daily update email list this year.



## DOC/PA OF THE DAY



## 2026 Doc of the Day

Thank you to Dr. Bryan Dugas, Dr. Michael Blomquist, Dr. Zachary Herman, and PA Jennifer Fray for generously volunteering their time to serve as Docs & PA of the Day during the second week of session.

If you're interested in participating, there are still a few open dates on the calendar. Doc/PA of the Day volunteers have the opportunity to meet directly with state legislators, are introduced on the floor of both the House and Senate Chambers, and play an important role in showing lawmakers that Wyoming physicians and PAs are engaged and invested in the future of healthcare in our state.

You *must* be a WMS member to serve as Doc/PA of the Day. *Please consider making time to volunteer this year!*

To schedule your volunteer date email [info@wyomed.org](mailto:info@wyomed.org)

[VOLUNTEER CALENDAR/INFO](#)

THANK YOU FRIENDS OF WMS



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*Advocating for doctors and their patients since 1903*

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