



Idaho Medical Association

2014 IMA Legislative Talking Points

Medicaid Redesign

IMA **supports** Medicaid Redesign that will: 1) Save taxpayers money by eliminating two costly and inefficient government programs; 2) Bring Idaho federal tax dollars back to our state to provide coverage for working Idahoans; and 3) Redesign the system to require personal responsibility of Medicaid recipients.

- *Eliminate Waste:* In 2014, Idaho will spend a combined \$60 million in the county indigent and state catastrophic (CAT) fund programs to reimburse care for only 6000 individuals. Eliminating these two programs plus choosing Medicaid Redesign would save Idaho nearly \$85 million over a ten-year period.
- *Cover Working Idahoans:* Leverage our federal tax dollars back into Idaho to cover 104,000 legal Idaho residents. Of those who qualify, 68% have at least one full-time worker in the household; 16% have one or more part-time workers.
- *Require Accountability:* Redesign Medicaid to focus on personal responsibility for recipients; provide incentives to obtain preventive healthcare services and avoid the emergency room. A redesigned system will emphasize coordinated care to reduce waste and duplication.

Idaho has a choice: Status Quo vs. Medicaid Redesign.

- Status Quo will cost Idaho \$1.5 billion over ten years
- Medicaid Redesign will save Idaho \$85 million over years

Medical Education and Residency Program Funding

IMA is very appreciative of the Legislature's commitment to training future Idaho physicians. Idaho consistently ranks 49th or 50th in the number of physicians per capita, and many of Idaho's rural areas are hit particularly hard by a lack of access to quality health care. In addition, in-state training is the best chance we have of keeping Idaho's best and brightest young people who are pursuing medical careers, as well as attracting out of state physicians to our beautiful state.

IMA strongly **supports** funding to increase the current number of medical school seats at the WWAMI program and University of Utah, as well as expand state support for the Idaho family practice, internal medicine and psychiatry residencies. The Idaho State Board of Education has a plan to increase Idaho WWAMI participation by five seats per year until we reach a total of 40. IMA **supports** that goal and will be advocating for five new WWAMI seats in the upcoming legislative session. In addition, we are excited that there is a new residency program in North Idaho and will work toward legislative approval of state funding support for that program. The new residency program is located in Coeur d'Alene and is through Kootenai Health. It has already been fully accredited and will begin accepting residents in 2014.

Violence Against Health Care Workers

IMA **supports** legislation that would make it a felony to knowingly commit battery against health care personnel, including physicians, nurses, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and others who routinely work in health care settings. It is not uncommon for physicians, nurses, and other health care personnel to be intentionally attacked by patients they are attempting to help and IMA believes these workers deserve extra protection because of the hazardous nature of their work.

Idaho Community Standard of Care Protection Act

IMA **supports** legislation reaffirming that the quality of health care provided in Idaho will be judged by the community standard of care in Idaho, rather than Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) quality and delivery improvement initiatives. A physician's adherence to or failure to comply with or breach of PPACA quality and delivery improvement initiatives should not be used as a basis for a cause of action against a physician nor as a defense in support of a physician.

Time Sensitive Emergencies System of Care

IMA **supports** legislation creating a statewide time sensitive emergencies system of care. Time sensitive emergencies, specifically blunt trauma injuries, strokes and heart attacks, are routinely in the top five causes of death in Idaho. Numerous studies throughout the United States have demonstrated that organized systems of care improve patient outcomes, thus reducing the frequency of preventable death and improving patient outcomes and long-term recovery. Idaho remains one of only a few states without organized systems of care for trauma, stroke and heart attack. IMA supports the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare's work toward creating the framework for a comprehensive statewide system of care for time-sensitive emergencies in Idaho.

Change to Idaho's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

IMA **supports** legislation to change Idaho's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). IMA partners with the Idaho Board of Medicine to operate the Idaho Physician Recovery Network (PRN) program. The PRN facilitates prevention, identification, intervention, and rehabilitation for Idaho physicians or physician assistants who suffer from alcohol or chemical abuse or dependency, as well as mental health issues. Providers who enter into a contract with the PRN are intensely monitored for a period of at least five years, including intensive drug testing and tracking of a participant's prescription drug use. Currently, the PRN must rely upon participant's often unreliable and inaccurate self-reporting of his or her drug usage. The Idaho State Board of Pharmacy, which houses Idaho's PDMP, has agreed to sponsor legislation to amend Idaho statute to allow the PRN to access the records of the PDMP for those providers under contract with the PRN program.

Scope of Practice and Provider Licensure Legislation

Although IMA is not sponsoring any scope of practice legislation this year, we are aware of several likely pieces of legislation to be presented in the 2014 session that either create a new licensing class and/or define or expand the scope of practice for various existing licensed health care providers. IMA is supportive of carefully crafted scope bills that clearly define the training necessary for the providers in question, the specific scope of procedures, treatment and practices those providers are educated and trained to perform, and that do not overstep into other practice areas or restrict existing practices of Idaho physicians or restrict patient access to qualified providers. IMA strongly supports transparency and full disclosure to patients by all health care providers of the education, training, and qualifications the provider holds as well as the services that are being offered. Idaho physicians have made a serious commitment to the protection of their own patients and the public health as well. IMA appreciates the opportunity to provide information regarding scope of practice and licensure legislation to Idaho legislators, who have also made a serious commitment to the citizens of Idaho.

Updating Idaho's HIV Transmission Statute

IMA is investigating the possibility of legislation to update Idaho's medically outdated HIV transmission statute. Idaho's statute regulating criminal law related to HIV transmission was passed in 1988 and has not been updated since it was signed into law. Since 1988 we have gained a much better understanding of HIV and its transmission and treatment. Current Idaho law is based upon medically inaccurate and outdated information and may unintentionally impede public health by discouraging people from getting tested early and treated as soon after infection as possible. We are working with stakeholders to investigate appropriate action on this important topic.

Healthier Options for Idaho Food Stamp Program Participants

IMA **supports** policy improvements that will provide healthier food options for Idaho Food Stamp Program participants. Roughly 14.6 percent of Idaho's state population is enrolled in the Idaho Food Stamp Program. Although the Idaho Food Stamp Program is almost entirely governed by federal guidelines and, therefore, there is little the Idaho Legislature can do to make substantive policy changes, IMA will do what it can to partner with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and other appropriate organizations to develop policies that improve access to and encourage healthier food options for Idaho citizens enrolled in the Idaho Food Stamp Program.