



Effective Advocacy is Vital to the Practice of Medicine

Legislators Need to Hear From You

Iowa's state senators and representatives come from diverse backgrounds; many are not healthcare experts, yet they must vote on these issues when a bill comes before them. As a medical expert, you are uniquely qualified to help your elected representatives understand the practical implications of healthcare policy proposals. It is vital that legislators hear from you.

How to Get Involved: _____

Get to Know Your Legislators

- **BEFORE SESSION:** Invite them to coffee or to visit your clinic. Legislators are more likely to be responsive to individuals they know once session starts. Send an email introducing yourself, [like this sample email](#).
- **DURING SESSION:** Subscribe to legislators' newsletters to learn what they're working on and attend in-district legislative forums. Details will be listed in their newsletters.
- **ATTEND PHYSICIAN DAY ON THE HILL:** This IMS-organized event is a great opportunity to speak with your legislators at the Capitol and have IMS staff available to help with the conversations.

Advocacy Tools: _____

- **IMPAC:** Join the Iowa Medical Political Action Committee to help drive the political discussion around health policies and receive the IMPAC Insider, a member-only quarterly newsletter with electoral insight unique to medicine.
- **IMS ADVOCATE:** Sign up for our electronic newsletter distributed weekly while the legislature is in session. This resource contains legislative and policy updates.
- **CENTER FOR PHYSICIAN ADVOCACY:** The Center for Physician Advocacy (CPA) directs the state and federal legislative and lobbying efforts of the Iowa Medical Society. Contact the CPA at www.iowamedical.org.

Speaking With Legislators:

- **BE CONCISE:** During session, legislators have busy schedules; short messages are most effective.
- **USE A BILL NUMBER WHEN POSSIBLE:** This ensures there is no confusion regarding which issue you're talking about.
- **HAVE A SPECIFIC REQUEST:** Let your legislators know exactly what you want them to do.
- **USE PERSONAL STORIES WHEN POSSIBLE:** Stories help to illustrate your background with an issue and personalize policy proposals.
- **PROVIDE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION:** Legislators welcome input from their constituents. Allow them to reply directly to you.

Not sure who your elected officials are?

- Find out at our Advocacy Center webpage by visiting www.iowamedical.org/Advocacy.

The Iowa Medical Society (IMS) is a statewide professional association representing over 6,600 Iowa physicians, residents and medical students. Today, IMS exists to assure the highest quality health care in Iowa through our role as physician and patient advocate.