

There is always Congressional activity to address health care, patients and physicians. In this section we will monitor and keep you updated on federal legislation affecting health care policy, specifically peer review, as well as hearings the Semmelweis Society and its associate physicians are involved in. We also provide a list of legislators on House and Senate Committees and Subcommittees addressing health care.

January 30, 2005

The spotlight shines on a new Congress, which will explore a number of key health themes, from tort reform to Medicare payment.

January 18, 2005

Thirteen Groups Collaborate in Responding to Federal Government's RFI on NHI Network

January 16, 2005

The medical industry is having difficulties converting to electronic health records and other computerized systems, but hospitals are making major strides, sometimes held back by doctors.

January 13, 2005

Goal tending: Patient safety and the environment of care.

September 14, 2004

Dr. Timothy Scanlan responds to Wichita Eagle Editorial, explaining HR 663 & S 720.

Whistle Blower Act is working its way through the Senate right now.

Health Care Cost Increases Might Have Negative Effect on US Economy, Labor Department Says .

House Affirms Investment in Physician Training at US Children's Hospitals 11 Sep 2004.

On July 22, 2004, the Senate passed S.720 - 02 AUG 04

What the AMA has to say about this legislation. Legal and Practitioner opinion regarding this legislation would be well received by Semmelweis Society.

Letter to Senators requesting the passage of S.720 - 10 MAR 04

Signed by state medical boards and prominent medical societies.

AMA Letter to Senators requesting the passage of S.720 - 9 MAR 04

"We strongly urge the Senate to pass S. 720 as a fundamental significant step toward reducing errors and improving safety and quality..." Signed by Dr. Michael Maves.

On 9 June, 2003 Drs. Waite, Bard, and Butler met with Dr. J. Sharfstein and David A. Rapallo, Counsel for the Committee on Government Reform, after Dr. Butler had written his congressman,

The Honorable Henry Waxman, to discuss the need for due process in medical peer review, in both the private and public sectors. CDR Butler (USNR) requested whistle-blower protection for reporting to Senator Glenn and Representative Waxman.

On 10 June, 2003 Dr. Butler testified under oath before Mrs. Eileen Keenan, DOD Inspector General regarding the treatment afforded Dr. Eric Gluck, Dr. Stephen W. Smith, and others. Ralph Bard M.D., J.D., CDR USNR was present as Dr. Butler's attorney.

MANAGED CARE ETHICS: THE CLOSE VIEW

Dr. Linda Peeno's Testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Commerce, Subcommittee on Health and Environment .

There are many legislators who have helped and will continue to propose legislation if we continue our diligence towards this just cause. You can contact the congressmen listed here or contact your own.

Most senators can be contacted thru their individual urls, type " www.senate.gov/~ " in your address bar followed by their last name.

Most representatives can be contacted thru their individual urls, type "www.house.gov/" followed by their last name.

Legislators

Senate Committee on Finance
Sub committee on Health Care
web site: www.finance.senate.gov

Kyl, AZ/Chairman
Snowe, ME
Frist, TN
Bunning, KY
www.senate.gov/~bunning
Nickles, OK
Thomas, WY
Santorum, PA
Smith, OR
Hatch, UT
Lott, MS
www.lott.senate.gov

Rockefeller, WV/Ranking
Daschle, SD

Graham, FL
Jeffords, VT
Bigaman, NM
Lincoln, AR
Breaux, LA
Baucus, MT

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
web site: www.labor.senate.gov

majority staff director: Sharon Soderstrom, 835 SH
phone: 202-224-6770
fax: 202-224-6510

republicans
Jedd Gregg, NH, Chairman
William Frist, TN
Mike Enzi, WY
Lamar Alexander, TN
Christopher Bond, MO
Mike DeWine, OH
Pat Roberts, KS
Jeff Sessions, AL
John Ensign, NV
Lindsey Graham, SC
John Warner, VA

minority staff director: Michael Myers, 644 SD

democrats
Ted Kennedy, MA, Ranking
Chris Dodd, CT
Tom Harkin, IA
Barbara Mikulski, MD
Jeff Bingaman, NM
Patty Murray, WA
Jack Reed, RI
John Edwards, NC
Hillary Clinton, NY
Jim Jeffords, VT

House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education
www.house.gov/appropriations/

majority staff director: Craig Higgins, 2358 RHOB
phone 202-225-3081

Taylor, NC, Chairman
Regula, OH
Kolbe, AZ
Nethercutt, WA
Wamp, TN
Peterson, PA, Vice Chairman
Sherwood, PA
Crenshaw, FL
Young, FL, Ex Officio

minority staff director, Scott Lilly, 1016 LHOB
phone: 202-225-3481
fax: 202-225-9476

Dicks, WA, Ranking
Murtha, PA
Moran, VA
Hinchey, NY
Olver, MZ
Obey, WI, Ex Officio

House Committee on Energy and Commerce
Subcommittee on Health
web site: www.energycommerce.house.gov

majority staff director: Dave Marventano, 2125 RHOB
phone: 202-225-2927, fax: 202-225-1919

Bilirakis, FL, Chairman
Barton, TX
Upton, MI
Greenwood, PA
Deal, GA
Burr, NC
Whitfield, KY
Norwood, GA, Vice Chairman
Cubin, WY
Wilson, NM
Shadegg, AZ
Pickering, MS
Buyer, IN
Pitts, PA

Fletcher, KY
Ferguson, NJ
Rogers, MI
Tauzin, LA, Ex Officio

minority staff director, Rid Stuntz, 2322 RHOB
phone 202-225-3641, fax 202-225-2525

Brown, OH, Ranking
* Waxman, CA
Hall, TX
Towns, NY
Pallone, NJ
Eshoo, CA
Stupak, MI
Engell, NY
Strickland, OH
Capps, CA
Gordon, TN
Green, TX
DeGette, CO
Dingell, MI, Ex Officio

House Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Health
website: www.waysandmeans.house.gov

majority staff director: John MnManus, 1136 LHOB
phone: 202-225-3943
fax: 202-226-1765

Johnson, CT, Chairman
McCrery, LA
Crane, IL
Johnson, TX
Camp, MI
Ramstad, MN
English, PA
Dunn, WA

minority staff director: Cybele Bjorklund, 1106 LHOB
phone: 202-225-4021, fax: 202-226-4969

Stark, CA, Ranking
Kleczka, WI

Lewis, GA
McDermott, WA
Doggett, TX

Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services
Tommy Thompson: hhsmail@os.dhhs.gov
website www.hhs.gov
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20201
phone 202-619-0257, 202-690-7000
deputy secretary, Claude Allen, phone: 202-690-6133

National Institutes of Health: www.nih.gov
US Department of Health and Human Services
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, MD 20892
phone: 301-496-4000

Occupational Safety and Health Administration
US Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20210
www.osha.gov
phone: 202-693-1999

Office of the Surgeon General
US Department of Health and Human Services
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 18-66
Rockville, MD 20857
www.surgeongeneral.gov
phone: 301-443-4000