



IMPAC

**Illinois State Medical Society
Political Action Committee**

Update on ISMS' Advocacy in Springfield

**Efforts to Protect Medicine Continue as Legislative
Session Goes into Overtime.**

IMPAC still needs your help!

The 2016 spring session of the Illinois General Assembly has adjourned with no budget in sight, and many other priorities in limbo as well. All 118 Illinois House members and many state senators are up for re-election in an election year that is shaping up to be the most expensive ever, with extremely controversial figures at the top of the ballot on both sides. Unprecedented political chaos is shaking Illinois.

Your profession needs your help.

IMPAC's singular goal is to help elect physician-friendly candidates to public office in Illinois – a task which may be more difficult now than ever before. Trial lawyers and health insurers are expected to donate millions to support elected officials who do not share our pro-patient and pro-physician priorities. Your support is needed to help support pro-physician candidates in the General Assembly.

Why does this matter? A brief look at the Illinois State Medical Society's recent legislative achievements paints a clear picture:

- ISMS spearheaded a bill to promote **network adequacy and transparency** for insurance plans sold in Illinois. This legislation would require insurers to develop networks of health professionals, hospitals and facilities that meet the needs of enrollees; maintain up-to-date directories of in-network professionals and facilities; and communicate with patients clearly and quickly about changes to their network. It would also ensure continuity of care even when a patient's preferred physician is no longer in-network.

- ISMS successfully advocated for **important changes to the medical cannabis pilot program**. Under this legislation, certifications will be reported to the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP), and physicians will no longer be in the position of “recommending” medical cannabis, instead simply certifying the patient has one of the qualifying conditions defined in the law.
- ISMS is fighting legislation that would expand the **scope of practice** for optometrists, allowing them to perform surgical procedures and give injections. ISMS secured a commitment from leading members of the General Assembly that this initiative will not pass unless there is an agreement between the optometrists and ISMS.
- Because of ISMS opposition, **a bill to allow “certified midwives,”** who receive very little medical education, to perform a range of obstetrical and pediatric care in the home is being held in the House. These non-nurse midwives are active and persistent, and we expect to see this legislation again in the future.
- Plaintiffs’ attorneys reintroduced their bill to remove the confidentiality of hospital peer review meetings by **repealing the Medical Studies Act** and making the meetings and any related documents discoverable in court. Due to strong opposition from ISMS, the bill is being held in the Senate.

IMPAC’s past success has contributed significantly to ISMS’ effectiveness in the General Assembly. If IMPAC maintains its strong footing, ISMS is perfectly positioned to move the ball forward on a wide variety of issues that are vital to Illinois physicians. If IMPAC falters, ISMS’ influence may fall with it.

What Can You Do To Help? Become involved! Join IMPAC today and help your colleagues support candidates who support us. If you’ve already contributed to IMPAC, ***thank you*** – but don’t stop now in our hour of need. Consider raising your commitment to the \$500 or \$1,000 donor level.

Physicians have a real opportunity in 2016 to shape the makeup of the Illinois General Assembly.

Your contribution and membership in IMPAC will help

physicians weather the storm and protect our patients in the future.

[CLICK HERE](#) to contribute now.

IMPAC gives 100% of your contributions to candidates who advocate for you, and joining IMPAC is easy. You can contribute by sending a check to IMPAC at 20 N. Michigan Ave, Suite 700, Chicago, IL 60602, or online at www.impaconline.org.

For up-to-date information on what's going on in Springfield, visit the Legislative Action Hub on www.isms.org and follow us on Twitter @ISMSLegislative.

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