

Adventures in Lobbying on Capitol Hill

There are four issues the AAPA has on its agenda. 1. H.R. 1178, S. 1605, and S.1678 which are all the same amendments; the Physician Assistant continuity of care act. This will allow PA's to order home health, hospice, skilled nursing facility care, and to provide hospice care. This bill was pushed hard. 2. HR.4651 and S1795, the improving access to Workers' Compensation for injured federal workers. This bill amends the Workers' Compensation act and would allow PA's to treat federal work comp patients. 3. HR 2790, to amend title 38, to establish a full time director of Physician Assistant services at the VA central office. 4. Restore Title VII Health Profession Education Program grants for all PA programs.

We pushed 1 and 2 above hard. We had an excellent response. I was able to meet with Senator Craig and the office staff of Senator Crapo. I had the demographics of Idaho, and we saw 1,567,000 patients last year. The senators were impressed with this number. They appear to be PA friendly and supportive. Although the meetings were a success, I believe the key will be to follow up. I plan on a return e-mail in six weeks. If anyone has any questions to hesitate to call or e-mail me at Bjsimmons@cableone.net.