

**PA Rheumatology Society
Grassroots Advocacy Update
July 2023**

Federal Grassroots Activity

ACR

- ACR keeps on top of all federal grassroots activities of interest to our membership. Most recently, ACR signed onto a joint stakeholder letter supporting US House Resolution 2630 (Safe Step Act). Here is a link to the July 11th letter: <https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/bltee37abb6b278ab2c/blt9175c706c9056a74/advocacy-letter-coalition-safe-step-act-house-leaders.pdf>
- In case you have not seen it yet, I encourage your review of ACR's Quarter 2 Advisory Update. It is enclosed here for your review: <https://assets.contentstack.io/v3/assets/bltee37abb6b278ab2c/blt3a721c088acbc4b2/quarterly-advocacy-update.pdf>
- As detailed within previous updates, ACR created an advocacy priority list for 2023. To access this list, click on this link: <https://rheumatology.org/kev-issues> .
- Lastly, ACR's Annual Meeting, *Convergence*, will be held on November 10-15, 2023, in San Diego. For more information, check out their website.

CSRO

- CSRO has been actively engaged with members, our lobbyist, with the Alliance of Specialty Medicine (Alliance) and the national All Co-Pays Count Coalition (Coalition).
- As such, CSRO recently signed onto Coalition comments related to the Help Ensure Lower Patient Copays (HELP) Act. This correspondence was sent to Minority/Majority Leaders in both chambers of the United States Congress. To access the July 14th document, click onto https://csro.info/UserFiles/file/HELPCopaysAct_PBMReform_ACCC071423.pdf
- CSRO publishes regular correspondence to inform members and/or their state rheumatology societies of state and federal issues of interest to them. If you possess an interest in advocacy, I strongly encourage you to sign up on the CSRO advocacy page.
- Lastly, CSRO's Summer Policy update is now available. To access this information, check out <https://csro.info/UserFiles/file/PolicyUpdates/2023SummerNewsletter.pdf>

State Grassroots Activity

Grassroots Advocacy Efforts of Interest to PRS: Shapiro Administration/Related Jurisdiction:

2023-2024 Proposed State Budget:

- As of this date, the 2023-2024 proposed state budget has not been provided to Governor Shapiro for enactment and implementation.
- The House and Senate approved House Bill 611- the chosen appropriations vehicle to house the proposed 2023-2024 state budget. During final House concurrence, talks broke down over a proposed school voucher bill supported by Senate leadership.
- Although Senate leadership has vowed not to return to finish all fiscal code bills required to enact the state budget, there are rumors that there is pressure from constituents and Senate leadership to return in August. Stay tuned for updates next month.

Activities within the Pennsylvania House and Representatives and the Senate of Pennsylvania:

With the focus of the state legislature being the enactment of the 2023-2024 state budget, there is nothing to report at this time. **A copy of our most updated legislative tracking list is enclosed for your convenience.**

PRS Coalition-Related/Medical Specialty Partners Grassroots Advocacy Activities:

Pennsylvania Provider Advocacy Coalition (Coalition) Updates: Last month, I provided information about the Coalition's collaboration with the Pennsylvania Health Funders Collaborative and other key stakeholders to advocate for the creation of the Governor's Office of Health Workforce Innovation and Reform. As you may recall, the rationale behind this Office would be to address the healthcare workforce crisis in the state after the unwinding the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Since our last update, we have been informed that the Shapiro Administration has received the proposed Executive Order and its accompanying materials for next step(s). As your lobbyist, I represent the Society in all of these meetings.

Pennsylvania Medical Society Updates: Our partners at the Pennsylvania Medical Society continue to stay on top of priority issues for all physicians across the commonwealth. After checking out their website, I noticed that one of their new projects is the White Coat Campaign, a dedicated section on their website providing resources on scope of practice, including information on other health care professionals. For more information, check out <https://howwhitecoatswork.org/>

2023 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

September 26, 27

October 2, 3, 4, 16, 17, 18, 30, 31

November 1, 13, 14, 15

2023 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

September 18, 19, 20

October 2, 3, 4, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25

November 13, 14, 15

December 11, 12, 13

Submitted by Deborah Ann Shoemaker, PRS lobbyist