

Grassroots Advocacy Update

March 24, 2022

Federal Grassroots Activity

ACR/CSRO

- ACR and CSRO lead federal grassroots advocacy efforts on behalf of our membership. As PRS' outside lobbyist, I have reached out to my advocacy colleagues at CSRO to be reacquainted with top priorities within the field/areas of collaboration. Updates will be forthcoming.
- PRS President Dr. Tan, PRS Immediate Past President Dr. Denio, former PRS Advocacy Committee Chair, Dr. Killian, and various PRS members collaborate on a regular basis to maximize our Society's efforts on the federal scene, participating in educational meetings and/or participating in advocacy efforts.
- *Specific ACR updates: Revised Treatment Guidelines*
 - In early March, ACR unveiled two updated guidelines for the treatment of Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis. The papers, which include the revised list of recommendations and/or supportive evidence, can be found [on the ACR website](#).
 - On March 8th, in concert with the Vasculitis Foundation (VF), ACR released new guidelines related to management of Kawasaki disease (including diagnostic issues related to the disease, and the management/treatment of high-risk patients). Additional information can also be obtained [on the ACR website](#).
- *Specific CSRO update: Member Call to Action*
 - CSRO recently distributed **A Call to Action** soliciting member feedback to a recent Federal Trade Commission (FTC) Request for Comments on how Pharmacy Benefit Managers' (or PBMs) policymaking affects overall drug pricing and consumer access to prescription medications.
 - The deadline for comments is April 25th.
 - A comprehensive document, including talking points, is **enclosed** with this update for your review and comments. Let me know if you have any questions or need more information.
- Additional updates can be found at <https://www.rheumatology.org/Advocacy/Federal-Advocacy/Key-Issues> (ACR) or at <https://csro.info/advocacy.html> (CSRO).

PRS Grassroots Advocacy Priorities

- *Housekeeping item: Welcome New PRS Advocacy Chair!*
 - A few weeks ago, Drs. Denio, Killian and I met with PRS member Dr. Michael Borofsky to discuss his willingness to take over as new PRS Advocacy Chair. As you may recall, Dr. Killian has retired from his practice and is ready to hand over the reins of his longtime Society advocacy leadership. After much discussion, and brief overview of the federal and state grassroots advocacy issues for rheumatology, Dr. Borofsky concurred that this will be a good fit.
 - Dr. Killian will be on hand to assist with transitions and has promised me that he will stay active in Society grassroots advocacy efforts.
- *Budget Update: Governor Wolf presented his last proposed state budget on Tuesday, February 8, 2022. I drafted an overview of the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 proposed budget for member use and distribution (included with the February update). NOTE: if you need a copy of the document again, let me know.*
NOTE: As required by the state Constitution, the state House and Senate Appropriations

Committees have finished their budget hearings. To comply with state law, the state legislature must pass a budget to be enacted by Governor Wolf by June 30th.

- *Legislative Tracking List:*
 - o **A copy of our most recent legislative tracking list is also enclosed for your reference.**
 - o **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION:** Of interest/request for comments are Senate Bill 596 (which would insurance parity for work provided by chiropractors) and Senate Bill 1039 (which would create a Health in All Policies Task Force). **NOTE: these bills are not necessarily on the fast track OR of concern. I just wanted your review to see if we would have any concerns/need to comment on these proposed bills.**
 - o Please let me know if you have any questions about any bills on our watch list or if there were any bills would want to be added that are of interest.

**Pennsylvania General Assembly Session Update
2021-2022 Session**

2022 HOUSE SESSION SCHEDULE

March	28, 29, 30
April	11, 12, 13, 25, 26, 27
May	23, 24, 25
June	7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30
September	12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21
October	24, 25, 26
November	14, 15, 16

2022 SENATE SESSION SCHEDULE

March	28, 29, 30
April	4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13
May	23, 24, 25
June	6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30

Submitted by Deborah Ann Shoemaker, PRS outside lobbyist. For more information, contact Ms. Shoemaker at shoemaker0805@comcast.net or via cell at 717.575.9159.