

SBCMS Representatives Attend CMA's Legislative Leadership Conference

30 SBCMS members attended CMA's 36th Annual Legislative Leadership Conference on Tuesday, April 27 at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento.

CMA President J. Brennan Cassidy and CMA Chief Executive Officer Dustin Corcoran opened the meeting, and Jodi Hicks, Vice President, Center for Government Relations, gave a health issues and policy briefing. California Assembly Speaker John Perez presented an overview of legislative priorities, and a panel moderated by Evan Halper, Sacramento Bureau Chief of the Los Angeles Times and consisting of Richard Figueroa, the Governor's Deputy Cabinet Secretary; Seren Taylor, Staff Director of the Senate Republican Fiscal Office; Craig Cornett, Budget Director and Chief Fiscal Advisor, Office of the Senate President Pro Tempore, discussed state budget issues. The keynote speaker was Robert Hertzberg, State Assemblyman and Co-Chair of California Forward.



Photo: Students, residents, SBCMS officers, and board members enjoyed luncheon speaker Robert Hertzberg, California State Assemblyman and Co-Chair of California Forward.

We were fortunate this year to meet with many of our elected officials in the State Assembly and Senate to discuss important health policy issues that affect the practice of medicine in



California. Appointments were held with Senators George Runner, Roy Ashburn, Bob Huff, Robert Dutton, Gloria Negrete-McLeod, and Assemblymembers Connie Conway, Steve Knight, Anthony Adams, Curt Hagman, Norma Torres, Wilmer Amina Carter, William Emmerson and Paul J. Cook.

Photo: Students, residents and SBCMS Leaders meet with Senator George Runner.

Assemblymembers Cook, Emerson, Hagman, Conway and Senator Huff joined us for dinner, along with special guests Jim Brulte, former California Senate Republican Leader; Dustin Corcoran; David Pruitt, CMA Vice President, Political and External Affairs; and Jodi Hicks.

SBCMS representatives discussed three bills as they met with our legislators:

- AB 2093 (M. Perez) Adequate Vaccine Reimbursement. This bill is co-sponsored with AAP and CAFP.
- AB 2248 (Hernandez) EMS/MADDY FUND ACCOUNTING
- Preserving the Bar Against the Corporate Practice of Medicine - AB 646 (Swanson), AB 648 (Chesbro), SB 726 (Ashburn); CMA - OPPOSED

Our mission as physician advocates is to keep legislators aware of how proposed legislation could enhance or threaten patients' health or physicians' ability to practice medicine. These one-on-one meetings are invaluable and serve to strengthen our ongoing relationship with our representatives in Sacramento.

Thanks to the following San Bernardino County physicians who represented you in Sacramento: Rodney Borger, Victor Ching, William Hale, Eric Hansen, Edward Hess, Ellen Ko, Rick Murray, Leroy Ounanian, Raman Poola, Damodara Rajasekhar, Danny Wongworawat, Dev GnanaDev, Thelma Korpman, Donald Kurth, Clifford Walters, Marti Baum, and Nabil Razzouk PhD, CEO, Arrowhead Orthopedics. House Officer Members: Wais Arsala, Louisa Hanna, and Abdullah Saidy. Medical students attending were Christopher Adair, Jonathan Anderson, Ryan Eggers, Christopher Ellstrom, Alexis Homan, Thomas Jeider, Travis Morrell, and Jonathan Van Ornam. Staff support was provided by Linda Stratton and Lucy Garcia.



Photo: A contingent of SBCMS representatives stand before the State Capitol.