

Issue-Specific Campaign Suggestions

An issue-specific campaign creates a connection for your employees. Sometimes people need the clarity of an issue to understand the importance of political advocacy. HAP will design a flyer/remittance form to launch your campaign.

Liability Reform

- **Informed Consent**—Agreement or permission accompanied by full notice about the care, treatment, or service that is the subject of the consent. In the case of *Shinal v. Toms*, the court ruled that health care facilities and physicians could not use qualified practitioners in the informed consent process. This means that qualified staff can no longer assist with providing information, answering questions, or following up with patients prior to surgical procedures for fear of legal liability
- **Venue**—Preventing the reversal of medical liability reforms. The current Supreme Court makeup is considering a proposal to allow venue shopping in medical liability cases

Streamlining Physician Credentialing—No standard time frame exists as to when an insurer will credential a new provider, creating a lengthy holding pattern for both provider and patient. Hospitals must know when a provider will be approved to treat patients

Telemedicine—Give patients more access to Pennsylvania’s best specialists by ensuring consistent coverage of telemedicine services

340B Drug Pricing Program—Helps hospitals manage rising prescription drug costs by requiring pharmaceutical manufacturers to sell outpatient drugs at discounted prices. This program is facing heightened Congressional scrutiny and proposed payment cuts that will limit the benefit of participation

Medicaid DSH Payments—Provide payments to hospitals that serve a high proportion of Medicaid beneficiaries and uninsured patients. The payments are essential for hospitals to offset their uncompensated care costs for treating low-income patients. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) reduced federal funding for Medicaid DSH based on the assumption that the ACA insurance expansions would reduce hospital uncompensated care and, therefore, the need for DSH funding

Workforce Safety

- **Name Badge**—Protect our health care workers by allowing the omission of health care practitioners’ names from their ID badges and/or secure enactment of legislation to increase penalties for assaults on health care practitioners
- **Assault of a Health Care Worker**—Increases the penalty on a health care worker from a misdemeanor to a felony

Nurse Staffing Requirements—Current legislation wants to mandate specific nurse-to-patient staffing levels. Setting arbitrary staffing ratios could cause some hospitals to cut other positions to make room for additional nurses in a shift, regardless of need

For more information about issue-specific campaigns, or to begin yours, contact Sue Stewart at (717) 561-5310 or sstewart@haponline.org.