

Hospital Tobacco Settlement Fund Payments Protected in Pennsylvania's State Budget

Your HAPAC dollars support candidates for office and incumbent lawmakers who are hospital champions and advance the hospital advocacy agenda.

The results of our recent budget fight to ensure Tobacco Settlement Funds were not diverted away from hospitals to pay a state debt is a perfect example.

Since its implementation during 2001, Pennsylvania has committed to keeping its share of the Tobacco Settlement Fund (TSF) for its original purpose: health care. While other states have diverted these funds to help balance budgets and satisfy bond payments, Pennsylvania has been committed to preserving these funds to be exclusively used for health care purposes.

Nearly every hospital in the commonwealth receives uncompensated care, extraordinary expense payments, or CURE money for research from the TSF.

Even though Governor Wolf's state budget plan kept the TSF for its original, intended purpose, some lawmakers wanted to use TSF payments to hospitals to pay state debt. They argued that hospital uncompensated care is no longer a problem, and that hospitals don't need these funds.

A sustained hospital advocacy and education campaign and the support from state lawmakers who are hospital supporters and champions resulted in a successful outcome. The plan to take TSF hospital payments for a state debt was defeated.

Influential senators and representatives were able to make our case and protect your money during the budget debate.

HAPAC dollars helped elect these champions or keep them in office.



**Strong Advocacy
+ Strong HAPAC
=
Sound Health
Care Policy**

We can never lose sight of the importance of HAPAC, which supports elected officials who recognize the value of strong hospitals. Without their help, we cannot advance our legislative agenda, improve health care delivery, and pave the way for a healthier Pennsylvania.