



Government Affairs Chairman Report



Jeff Frankel, MD
WSUS Government Affairs Chair

Your society was working for you and your patients on February 5, 2019. Washington State Urology Society Legislative Day took place in Olympia despite snow concerns. There were 23 participants including both practicing urologist and residents. We met at the state capital to discuss bills relevant to our practices. These issues included surprise/ balance billing, step therapy, and potential changes in liability law which would potentially affect malpractice insurance.

We began our day with a focused update on multiple legislative issues presented by Katie Kolan JD, Senior Director, Government Affairs and Policy as well as the chief lobbyist for the Washington State Medical Association. We then went to the "hill" and participated in 44 meetings with legislator's and staff from both the House and the Senate.

I can't emphasize enough the value and energy generated by the voluntary participation that we had that day. Many of the trepidation regarding lobbying by beginners were laid to rest and our participation was well received. Our purpose is not for a 1 day affair, but to remain involved and build relationships over time. These contacts our invaluable in protecting our profession.

Please consider joining us next year for the WSUS Legislative Day that is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2020. Thank those who volunteer their time and more importantly take advantage of the opportunities to be involved in the legislative process.

"If you are not at the table, you are on the menu."