

NSMA 2023 Legislative Successes

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Nevada State Medical Association (NSMA) is the oldest and largest physician advocacy organization in the state. The issues that this organization advocates and fights for directly impact the health care delivery system in Nevada. NSMA has a core group of dedicated members who put in incredible effort during the last legislative session focusing on advocacy and policy making. Ask any of these folks about the value of NSMA and they will readily jump in and acknowledge the time and effort that this group and organization put forth during not just this last session, but every session.

Those physicians who may be less “plugged in” to our daily activities often ask me what is the value of my membership in NSMA? What is it all for?

We fight to protect our physicians; whether that be by protecting the scope of practice, supporting GME expansion programs, supporting legislation that allows licensure of Anesthesiologist Assistants, or fighting to amend legislation that would eliminate or dramatically increase the cap on medical tort reform. It is NSMA’s duty and responsibility to advocate for the physicians of Nevada today and every day.

Fortunately, NSMA was there for you and your patients, working tirelessly to improve the practice of medicine in Nevada. In 2023, NSMA:

- Helped prevent legislation that would prohibit hospitals from employing physicians. (AB11)
- Supported legislation that would allow for the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants. (AB270)
- Helped prevent legislation that would set a health care cost growth benchmark and prohibit physicians from keeping up with inflation. (AB6)
- Amended legislation limiting what a physician could charge for furnishing health care records. Helped prevent legislation capping what can be charged for filling out certain medical forms. (AB437, SB283)
- Amended legislation preventing the independence of certified registered nurse anesthetists statewide. Instead, allowed for CRNAs to dispense controlled substances within their scope under the supervision of a Nevada licensed physician and only in critical access hospitals. (AB198, SB336)
- Amended legislation that would eliminate or dramatically increase the cap on medical tort reform protections. (AB209, AB404)
- Supported legislation protecting physicians’ ability to provide reproductive and gender identity healthcare services and access for minors to healthcare services. (AB131, SB163, SB172)
- Prevented legislation granting the independence of PAs. Instead, allowed for a PA and a practitioner of respiratory care one seat each on the Board of Medical Examiners. (AB364)
- Supported legislation to improve step therapy protocols, procedures, and coverages for certain prescription drugs. (SB167, SB177, SB194)
- Helped prevent legislation that would establish a provider tax on physicians. (AB197)
- Represented Nevada Physicians with dedication and integrity.

As we often say at NSMA about politics and policy making, “you’re either at the table or you’re on the menu.” NSMA was at the table for you in 2023, and with your help, we will continue to be there, protecting you and your patients for years to come.