



Legislative Update

Washington State Society of Anesthesiologists

The first week of the 2024 legislative session, came to a close with the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee hearing [Senate Bill 5184](#), establishing licensure of certified anesthesiologist assistants (CAAs). [The hearing](#) went well, and opposition was exclusively from CRNAs. WSSA President Tim Clement testified in favor of the bill, as did Dr. Cassie Gabriel from Vancouver. The Medical Commission also testified at the hearing in support of the bill.

On Thursday, WSSA testified on [House Bill 2073](#), legislation proposing to require the Department of Ecology to develop guidelines for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) from the use of anesthetic gases. While the profession has already taken many steps to limit the use of certain anesthetic gases, per ASA guidelines, WSSA asked the House Environment & Energy Committee to consider amendments to the proposed bill to ensure the preservation of clinical judgment.

Finally, earlier in the week, the Dental Quality Assurance Committee's Anesthesia Committee met to develop FAQs about the administration of anesthetic agents for dental procedures. The updated FAQs can be viewed [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 1/16 @ 1:30pm

- [HB 2102](#) - Public Hearing - Establishing requirements for the disclosure of health care information for qualifying persons to receive paid family and medical leave benefits.

Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 1/17 @ 1:30pm

- [HB 2066](#) - Public Hearing - Addressing affordability through health care provider contracting. (Oppose)
- [HB 2122](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning wellness programs for certain health care professionals. (Support)
- [HB 2041](#) - Exec Session - Concerning physician assistant collaborative practice. (Neutral)

Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 1/19 @ 8:00am

- [HB 2361](#) - Public Hearing - Phasing in the requirement that only standardized health plans may be offered on the health benefit exchange.

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Physician assistant practice Concerning physician assistant collaborative practice.	H HC/Wellness	Riccelli
HB 2041 Modifies physician assistant practice. For the administration of general and intrathecal anesthesia, the requirement for a PA to have CAA accreditation and therefore require the supervision of a physician anesthesiologist is retained in this proposal.		
Health provider contracting Addressing affordability through health care provider contracting.	H HC/Wellness	Riccelli
HB 2066 (SB 5948) Prohibits hospitals and health care providers (including physician groups) from engaging in the following contracting tactics: • All-or-nothing clauses • by which a carrier would be forced to contract with multiple hospitals or affiliates of hospitals. • Anti-steering clauses • by which carriers are restricted from encouraging enrollees to obtain health care services from a competitor of a hospital. • Anti-tiering clauses • by which carriers must place hospitals or affiliate in a certain cost-sharing tier. Prohibits hospitals and health care providers (including physician groups) from making a public statement or releasing notices to patients about potential or planned terminations of contracts with insurance carriers prior to 30 days before the contract termination date. Violations of the law are enforced by the Attorney General under the consumer protection act, authorizing treble damages in the event of violations.		
PFML benefits/health info. Establishing requirements for the disclosure of health care information for qualifying persons to receive paid family and medical leave benefits.	H HC/Wellness	Berry
HB 2102 (SB 6177) Requires physicians to complete PFML paperwork within 5 days and prohibits the charging of fees to do so.		
Physician wellness programs Concerning wellness programs for certain health care professionals.	H HC/Wellness	Thai
HB 2122 (SB 6165)		

Establishes confidentiality protections for physician wellness programs to promote their utilization and support retention of workforce.

Standardized health plans

Riccelli

[HB 2361](#)

Phasing in the requirement that only standardized health plans may be offered on the health benefit exchange.
