

WSSA Advocacy Update  
10/13/2019

The 2020 election is coming up soon and we want physicians' views to be at the front of their thoughts as they campaign. **PAPAC** and **WAMPAC** are the nonpartisan campaign arms of the WSSA and WSMA respectively. Please consider supporting both of these committees so that we can continue to build relationships with elected officials, which needs to start during their campaigns.

[Click here](#) for the PAPAC site.

[Click here](#) for the WAMPAC site.

After passage of HB 1065 earlier this year, implementation of the law prohibiting balance billing has been moving forward. The law directed the compilation of a dataset from the state's all-payer claims database to inform arbitration decisions under the law when physician groups and insurance carriers engage in dispute resolution to determine what constitutes "commercially reasonable" reimbursement. There has been concern among the physician community about the draft dataset. The final dataset is pending and we will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

The Washington Department of Health is still recruiting for their Maternal Mortality Review Panel and seeking anesthesiologists. To apply to become a Maternal Mortality Review Panel member, go to <http://www.doh.wa.gov/maternalmortality> before the application period closes on **Oct. 15**.

Congratulations to Dr. James Burkman M.D. are in order. He is one of our WSSA Board Members and Chair of USAP's Legislative Affairs Committee. He was recently awarded an Apple Award at the WSMA Annual Meeting on October 12 for his tireless work in Olympia and Washington D.C. advocating for physician anesthesiologists to our elected officials. Congratulations and thank you.