

WSSA Advocacy Update 01/30/2020

Please join the WSSA Board of Directors at the [2020 WSMA Legislative Summit on Feb. 25](#) in Olympia. It is our chance to meet our politicians and show them how important physician anesthesiologists are to our state. Breakfast and lunch are provided along with training on how to meet with our legislators.

We are in week 3 of fast-paced state legislative session. Below is a summary of relevant legislation that has been or will be addressed in the coming weeks.

Several bills were discussed on the House and Senate floors regarding last year's HB 2158 that imposed a B&O tax surcharge. WSSA supports **SB 6055** and **6059** which both seek to exempt healthcare services from the surcharge. Other legislation supports surcharges including **HB 2468** and **SB 6492**. WSSA and the WSMA is in opposition to those.

HB 2313 prohibits insurance carriers from requiring that physicians participate in maintenance of certification programs as a condition of being a participating provider in health plans.

HB 2203 and companion **SB 6038** makes changes to what constitutes the allowable practice of acupuncture and Eastern medicine, making allowance for the use of substances such as local anesthetics, epinephrine and oxygen.

HB 2335, increases allowances for pharmacies to administer, dispense, or deliver drugs to patients who receive evidence-based opioid use disorder treatment "at the health care entity" and in compliance with Pharmacy Commission rules.

SB 6086 seeks to reduce barriers to effective MAT services by permitting health care entities to dispense up to two weeks of controlled substances to patients receiving treatment for opioid use disorder.

SB 6447 requires a practitioner to provide a prescription for Naloxone, or to confirm that the patient has a current one already, when prescribing opioids at or in excess of 50 morphine milligram equivalent.

We will keep you updated as legislation unfolds in the coming weeks. Please share your thoughts on this legislation with us at office@WA-anesthesiology.org or on our Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram feeds.