

WSSA Advocacy Update

August 30, 2019

This is our fourth edition of our legislative and advocacy update and summarizes the summer's activity in Olympia, across the state, and the nation. Balance ("Surprise") Billing has remained a big issue at the national level. WSSA's Board member Jim Burkman, MD, met with Senator Patty Murray in D.C. to communicate our stance and relate Washington state's positive experience with our own H.B. 1065. From the WSMA: "**Members of Congress need to hear your concerns about this.** The AMA has an [August Recess "Action Kit" on surprise billing](#) which you can use, or [send an email to your members of Congress.](#)"

The Washington Medical Commission has an active proposed rule WSR 19-08-090 to raise physician renewal fees by 54%. Efforts to oppose this increase are ongoing. If you have experienced a delay in licensing or have any feedback on your experience, please let the WSMA know by emailing policy@WSMA.org.

There is still movement from the state's acupuncture and eastern medicine practitioners for an expansion of their scope of practice including use of local anesthetics. We are opposed to this expansion and will keep you posted on those efforts.

The WSMA Board and Staff will keep you updated as advocacy efforts continue.