



AOMA DISPATCH

The Monthly eNewsletter of the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association

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Zero to Sixty - 2019 Legislative Session Bills Accelerating

The 54th legislative session accelerator has hit the floor with more than 900 bills introduced in just 18 days. The AOMA Legislative and Student Legislative Affairs Committees and staff are busy tracking approximately 100 bills and there are a couple dozen bills of significant interest to actively support and/or oppose.

For more information and member access to the bills AOMA is tracking, please visit the [AOMA Advocacy Resource Center](#).

Good Bills

Let's begin with the good news — there are more than twenty bills so far that AOMA strongly supports. At the forefront are [HB 2075](#) & [SB 1108](#), sponsored by [Rep. Cobb](#) and [Sen. Carter](#), which implement critical opioid law fixes to delay the 2019 e-prescribing mandate to 2020 and provide important exceptions to the mandate. In addition, these bills contain an emergency fix to remove a conflict recently discovered in Arizona law that has limited physician assistant prescribing of opioids or benzodiazepines to no more than 72 hours. The bills contain a retroactive date so these fixes can be implemented immediately. Please take a minute to send a note of support to your legislators through [AOMA Action Center](#).

On the business of medicine front, we are working with our friends at the Arizona Dental Association and Rep. Cobb on [HB 2494](#) on health plan reforms to require transparent practices and alternatives to virtual credit/electronic processing fees. There are also significant bills related to improving telemedicine coverage, prohibiting health plan/PBM co-pay accumulator practices, and ensuring direct primary care agreements are legally permissible. Public health issues are plentiful with impactful bills addressing vaccine exemptions, regulating electronic smoking devices, prohibiting indoor tanning for minors, texting and driving, etc.

Bad Bills

It wouldn't be a legislative session without ample supply of bad bills to oppose. Despite the critical measles outbreak in Washington and new confirmed cases appearing in multiple states, a troubling package of bills deemed necessary have been introduced to mandate communication to patients about the dangers of vaccines, requiring antibody titer communication and testing, and expanded exemption opportunities. Arizona already has the most liberal vaccine exemptions laws and these bills will undoubtedly create many more anti-vaccine hotspots.

There are scope of practice expansions bills of concern, including [HB 2549](#), which would allow pharmacists under certain conditions to prescribe medications for influenza and strep throat,

administer and diagnose TB skin tests, and prescribe antihistamines, corticosteroids, decongestants, saline, cromolyn sodium and leukotriene receptor antagonists.

The Budget

Governor Doug Ducey proposed his [FY 2020 budget](#) which contains several critical healthcare priorities to protect access to care for vulnerable populations. He is proposing increasing expenditures to continue the KidsCare program (\$2M), raise childcare subsidies for working families (\$56M), and create a new prenatal telemedicine grant program and loan repayment in remote areas (\$2M).

Stay tuned for future AOMA Action Alerts and make sure to help advocate for your patients and profession by responding to them.

Still Time to Register for 2019 AOMA DO Day at the Legislature

Who: DOs and osteopathic medical students

What: Wear your white coat and meet with legislators, accompanied by an AOMA member DO. Prominent legislators in leadership positions and Senate and House Health Committees provide valuable insight about the physician advocacy for patients. Advocacy training is provided and bus service is available for medical students.

Where: Arizona State Legislature,
1700 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007

When: Tuesday, February 19, 2019

Why: To discuss issues impacting osteopathic medicine.



Reserve your spot today at www.az-osteop.org/DODayRSVP.

Register Now for the AOMA 97th Annual Convention

Early registration deadline for the AOMA 97th Annual Convention is March 10, 2019. This is the largest annual medical conference in Arizona and will be held April 10 - 14, 2019 at the Hilton Scottsdale Resort & Villas. The theme of the 2019 Convention is **Leading the Way**. The five-day CME event is designated for 38.25 AOA Category 1-A CME credits and has been approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 creditsTM*. Application will be filed for AAFP Prescribed Credits. Determination of credits is pending.

Register now and save \$100! Go to www.az-osteop.org/2019Conv



Jami Snyder Appointed New AHCCCS Director

Governor Doug Ducey appointed Jami Snyder as the director of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS). Snyder had served as deputy director of AHCCCS since December of 2017. Prior to joining Arizona's Medicaid agency, she served as Medicaid Director for the state of Texas and as Chief Operating Officer of the University of Arizona Health Plans. She also previously held

posts as an Operations Administrator at AHCCCS and a Bureau Chief at the Arizona Department of Health Services. Snyder succeeds Tom Betlach who retired as Director of AHCCCS on January 4, 2019 after 27 years of service to the state of Arizona.



Congratulations to Ms. Snyder!

Honor a Peer. AOMA Annual Awards - Nominations Due March 1, 2019

The AOMA Annual Awards recognize outstanding service and contributions to the osteopathic medical profession in Arizona. Only AOMA members may submit an AOMA Award nomination form. Submit nominations to AOMA by March 1, 2019 [online](#) or download a [nomination form](#).

AOMA Annual Awards



The AOMA Awards will be presented at the AOMA Annual Convention. The online nomination form plus the complete list of AOMA Awards and past recipients is available at www.az-oste.org/Awards.

Nominate online [here](#).

In Memoriam

David G. Siehl, DO, long-time resident of Sidney, Ohio and Phoenix, Arizona, passed away on January 13, 2019. David George Siehl was born on September 8, 1918, to Dr. Walter H. Siehl and Flora (Sontag) Siehl. Dr. Siehl was the second of the famous "Siehl Boys" who grew up playing baseball and rooting for the Reds in the Western Hills area of Cincinnati. He graduated from Western Hills High School in 1936 and Miami University in Oxford, Ohio in 1940. He followed in the footsteps of his father, Walter, and his aunt, Elizabeth Siehl, to earn his Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine from the Kirksville College of Osteopathy and Surgery in December, 1943.



He married Betty Carol Beckner on May 27, 1944, in St. Louis, Missouri. After his internship and residency at Grandview Hospital in Dayton, the couple moved to Dalton, Ohio, where Dr. Siehl served at the behest of the Ohio Medical Board as a physician in medically under-served communities as did many physicians at the close of WWII. The couple settled in Sidney in 1946 where he opened a family medical practice, and they raised 3 children. Dr. Siehl retired in 1987, when he married Lee Meyer, formerly of Sidney. They resided in Phoenix. Dr. Siehl lived a long and fulfilling life of 100 years. He celebrated this milestone birthday in Scottsdale, Arizona in September with his family. During this celebration, he loved to recount his many stories, including seeing Babe Ruth play baseball in 1926, watching the first baseball game under the lights in 1935, and his famous trip to California in 1940. He played saxophone in the Miami University Band at the Kentucky Derby and the Indianapolis 500 in 1939. Dr. Siehl was a 37-year member of the Kiwanis Club and a Trustee and Elder of the First Presbyterian Church in Sidney. He served as President of the Miami University Alumni of Shelby County, and was a founding member of the Sidney Junior Chamber of Commerce. He enjoyed boating and golf with his family and friends. A life-long sports

fan, baseball was his favorite – the Cincinnati Reds and the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Dr. Siehl is preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Betty Carol, and six brothers, Don, Paul, Tom and Dick, all osteopathic physicians, Jim, a successful teacher and coach, and Phillip, who died in infancy. Dr. Siehl is survived by his second wife, Lee Meyer Siehl, and his children, Dave (Edna Mae Boroski-Siehl) of Goose Creek, South Carolina, Sandy of Huron, Ohio, and Sally (Clark Elwood) of Bay Harbor, Michigan. Sister-in-law, Patricia Siehl-Dowell, survives in Ohio. Also surviving are stepson, Mike Meyer, of Tempe, Arizona, sister-in-law, Shirley (Jay Gardella) of Surprise, Arizona, and cousin Dr. Gladys Taylor McGarey of Scottsdale, Arizona.

A celebration of Dr. Siehl's life and legacy will be held at a later date in Ohio. Memorial gifts may be directed to A.T. Still University, Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, 800 W. Jefferson St., Kirksville, MO, 63501, Attn: Nancy Parrish. In memory of Dr. David G. Siehl.

AOMA Poster Forum - Deadline to Submit Abstracts is February 15

Attention students, residents, and faculty/preceptors! Each spring, the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association sponsors a Poster Forum. This scientific, peer-reviewed, evidence-based opportunity showcases the tremendous amount of high-quality scholarly activity that is developed on an annual basis. The poster forum allows for posters to be displayed over the course of the AOMA Convention with the formal judging held on Saturday, April 13, 2019. The top three posters in each category will be recognized at the awards luncheon on Sunday, April 14, 2019. Posters may be submitted in three different categories: clinical case, research, and performance/population health improvement.

The deadline to submit a poster abstract for the AOMA Annual Poster Forum is February 15, 2019. Go to www.az-osteo.org/PosterForum for information and to download an application. Contact Kristen Strong, kristen@az-osteo.org,

Slowing the Burn of Physician Burnout: Identifying Root Causes to Inform Policy Solutions

AOMA has teamed up with Arizona State University's College of Health Solutions (ASU-CHS) on an ambitious new project to help AOMA address the root causes of physician burnout through strategic policy solutions. AOMA and ASU-CHS want to learn about your experiences and personal challenges practicing medicine. We seek to understand and document all of the clinical and non-clinical activities that detract from the meaningful practice of medicine. At the conclusion of this project, actionable policy solutions will be organized and integrated into AOMA's future policy agenda and activities.

To this end, we would appreciate 10-15 minutes of your time to complete an important survey that will help us learn how AOMA can best meet your professional needs.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AOMA_ASUCHS_PhysicianBurnout

Last Chance to Pledge!

You can make Arizona Osteopathic Charities a big bucks winner by making a pledge in the Birdies for Charity competition at the 2019 Waste Management Phoenix Open. Arizona Osteopathic Charities will receive every penny of collected pledges. To make a pledge online go to birdiesforcharityaz.com.



Deadline to pledge is February 3, 2019.

2019 NHSC Loan Repayment Program is Open

The [NHSC Loan Repayment Program \(NHSC LRP\)](#) offers licensed primary care clinicians in eligible disciplines the opportunity to receive loan repayment up to \$50,000. In exchange, participants serve for at least two years at an NHSC-approved site in a designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).

Learn about application details including eligibility and service requirements in the [2019 Application and Program Guidance](#).

Patients are Looking for YOU!



Update Your Profile!

One of the benefits of AOMA membership is the Find a Physician public directory search. Make sure your practice information is up to date by logging in to your member profile on the AOMA website. When you do, prospective patients and potential referring physicians will be able to find you.

Join AOMA

Not an AOMA Member?

Join today and be a part of the 98-year tradition of the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association!

Membership in AOMA is an affordable vehicle to keep abreast of national and local issues, protect your professional practice, enhance your specialized skills, further your career, and be a part of the future of osteopathic medicine in Arizona.

Refer a new AOMA member and receive at \$100 credit. Go to www.az-osteo.org/Recruit

Arizona Vaccine News



[AzDHS](#)

[Immunization Program Website](#)

[CDC Immunization Schedules](#)

[AOMA Calendar of Events-www.az-osteo.org](http://www.az-osteo.org)

AOMA Board of Trustees Meeting - February 9, 2019

AOMA DO Day at the Legislature - February 19, 2019

AOMA 97th Annual Convention - April 10 -14, 2019

AOMA Board of Trustees Meeting - April 10, 2019

AOMA House of Delegates - April 12, 2019

5th Annual Flagstaff Osteopathic Medical Conference - August 17, 2019



Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association
5150 N. 16th Street, Suite A-122
Phoenix, Arizona 85016
602-266-6699
www.az-osteo.org