

MASSACHUSETTS LOBBY DAY FIGHTS “POISONOUS” URGENT CARE LEGISLATION

On July 17th, NERUCA Government Affairs and UCA Health & Public Policy members were in action at the Massachusetts State House, lobbying the legislature over House Bill H4639 (*An Act to Enhance Access to High Quality, Affordable, and Transparent Health Care*), and its companion bill in the Senate, S2573. Adoption of the measures detailed in H4639 which include a nearly 9% tax on charges as well as a highly restrictive licensing and definitions provisions, either of which would be devastating to the Commonwealth’s burgeoning urgent care industry. Almost as significantly, this continues a very troublesome trend that began earlier this year with the adoption of highly discriminatory urgent care licensure rules in Connecticut. This will very likely cross over into Vermont in 2019 with similarly regressive urgent care specific taxation and certificate of need provisions now under consideration.

NERUCA President/UCA H&PP member John Kulin DO and NERUCA Government Affairs Chair/UCA H&PP member Jonathan Halpert MD led an exceptional team to Boston’s Beacon Hill, including Shaun Ginter MBA (CareWell UC), Lynne Rosen (PhysicianOne UC), James Jarrett (CareWell UC), Brian Cruz MD (PhysicianOne UC), and Max Puyanic (ConvenientMD). The group was ably assisted by UCA CEO Laurel Stoimenoff PT CHC, James Brennan (AFC UC), Camille Bonta MHS (Summit Health Care Consulting, UCA), and Anthony Abdelahad Esq. (Ventry Associates, AFC UC).



In person visits were made to ten different legislative offices, and information was left with two additional offices. Team members were effective in advocating on behalf of the Massachusetts urgent care industry to members of both houses of the legislature, including all members of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing as well as the legislative leadership. Additionally, an in-depth meeting was held with representatives of the Massachusetts Medical Society reviewing the concerns NERUCA and UCA has with this legislation.

A joint NERUCA-UCA Position Statement was delivered to all legislative offices (see below for link to Position Statement), and a subsequent newspaper article regarding the matter was published in both the on-line and print editions of the Boston Globe (see below for link to article) featuring NERUCA and UCA Board of Directors member Shaun Ginter.

We anticipate the matter to be resolved by the close of this year’s legislative session on July 31st. NERUCA and UCA will persist in our efforts at resisting the industry killing measures proposed in H4639 throughout the remainder of the month, broadening our efforts to include Governor Baker’s office as well as continuing to target the Legislature.

Click here for: [NERUCA-UCA Position Statement](#)

Click here for: [Boston Globe article](#)