



from 'I Speak Up, therefore I am' and the Upcoming Legislative Season

[René Descartes](#) made his famous “I think, therefore I am” statement in 1637. This concept became a fundamental element of modern philosophy, as it emphasizes the importance of reasoning and thinking. In today’s world, everyone has well-established thoughts on a variety of things, but is it enough? Does it matter what I think if I keep it to myself?

Will anything happen if I do not share my thoughts and contribute to what goes on around me?

Things only change when people speak up. The more people speak up; the more they can affect the desired change. This is what makes organized medicine important. WVSMA president, Bradley Henry, MD, in an interview with the [MetroNews](#), Charleston WV expressed clearly what our Association stands for: “We’re an advocacy organization for patients and physicians both, and we want to make sure the product that comes out is as safe as it can be for our citizens.” In a broader sense, the product may be a medicine, a service, or a law.

It is up to us to stand up for what is good for our patients and our profession. Legislators listen to what we say but also to what everyone else says, and if we do not say much, or do not speak up loud enough, they are only left with the other voices.

Now is the time. It is the [Legislative season](#). This is when we further our cause and promote the interest of our patients and career. This is where we, the WVSMA, the largest physician advocacy organization in the state, get to speak up and influence the laws that govern the practice of medicine. To achieve our goals, we must be out there, personally or by supporting the people who are dedicated to doing it for us. If we do not go beyond our thoughts and speak up, someone else will fill the gap and steer the legislative environment towards other interests. There are many people out there with agendas that are not exactly health-oriented. We must have the voice and the volume; obtained with solid membership and active engagement with leadership, such as participating in committees and responding to surveys.

We Speak Up, Therefore We Are.

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