



# PAMPAC Board Update

By: Michael Aziz, MD – ACMS Board Member & PAMPAC Board Member

The Pennsylvania Medical Political Action Committee (PAMPAC) is the political arm of the Pennsylvania Medical Society. It is one of the largest bipartisan political action committees in the state, and is supported by physicians interested in making a positive contribution to the medical profession through the political action. PAMPAC supports pro-medicine candidates running for the state legislature or statewide judicial office.

The PAMPAC Board and Staff have been hard at work to advance PAMED's legislative efforts, and PAMPAC board members and staff were able to meet with a bipartisan group of legislators and leadership at our annual spring meeting. Please check your email and be on the lookout for the PAMPAC Pulse. This publication has been redesigned to focus on up-to-date political news and education.

## Membership

PAMPAC membership is available to any physician or family member who makes a contribution. Physician trainee and student memberships are also available for as little as \$20, in an effort to increase engagement. The budget is thoroughly reviewed annually, and every dollar contributed goes directly to candidate support.

Our staff has successfully modernized our membership process, in order to make membership fast and easy. Unfortunately, a large gap remains between PAMED and PAMPAC membership. Please follow this link in the online version or scan the attached QR code in order to join.

PAMPAC staff has arranged a membership challenge between the

eastern and western Pennsylvania counties. To defend the honor of all of the physicians in Western Pennsylvania, especially those from the City of Champions, I have personally wagered that we will be able to recruit more members than the eastern counties. In a surprise to no one who follows Pennsylvania politics, an attempt was made to gerrymander the map! Thankfully, an even split in our counties was successfully mediated by our staff prior to the involvement of an appeals court. Look for more details about the PAMPAC challenge in the coming weeks.

## Legislative Advocacy

If there are time sensitive issues which require physicians to lobby their legislators, PAMED's Weekly Dose email will have links to contact your elected officials with either custom or pre-populated text. If you have the time and energy, in-person meetings with legislators are also a wonderful way to utilize our influence and social standing as physicians to lobby on behalf of our patients and profession. Even if you feel that you were unsuccessful, building that relationship and offering your advice may be helpful in the future, as many health and healthcare related issues are brought before the legislature annually. Ideally, every elected official in the state should know that they can rely on their local physicians and/or PAMED staff for reliable and evidence-based opinions on the health of Pennsylvanians.

There are a growing number of physicians who have realized that health industry interests and physician/patient interests do not always align,

and we are doing our best to organize as a foil to those special interests. Engaging with your local legislators can make a significant difference.

## House of Delegates

We are expecting non-compete clauses, practice creep, regional access issues, telemedicine, private equity purchases of physician practices, and cannabis legalization to be hot topics over the coming year. If you are interested or an expert in any of these topics, please consider examining our compendium to determine whether or not you would like to submit a new resolution or revision to the PAMED House of Delegates by June 6th.

If you have questions regarding PAMPAC or are interested in political organizing on behalf of our patients and profession, please email me at michaelmazizmd@gmail.com.

