

January 30, 2020

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2020 Legislative Session in Full Swing

The 54th Legislature opened its 2nd Regular Session on Monday, January 13, 2020 with more than 1000 bills introduced in the first 12 days. The AOMA Legislative Affairs Committee and staff are busy tracking approximately 100 bills, including about a dozen bills of significance 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 start with some good news.

[HB 2420](#), Rep. Nancy Barto's bill on behalf of patient advocacy groups to reform the way in which health insurers handle step therapy on covered drugs

[HB 2532](#), a bill by Rep. Amish Shah to compel health insurers to develop a uniform prior authorization form

[SB 1152](#): Senator David Livingston's bill on behalf of Midwestern University to revitalize the Medical Student Loan Board and allow med students from non-state schools to get access to the loan forgiveness programs

Bad Bills - And, then a few of the bills we oppose.

[HB 2419](#), a bill by Rep. Nancy Barto to create a new licensed health professional, an Assistant Physician, which would be open to medical school grads that don't get into residency programs, and would allow them to practice primary care in medical shortage areas (with physician "collaboration").

[HB 2050](#) is sponsored by Rep. John Fillmore and has no other legislators signed on. This bill changes the language from parents having the right to "opt out of immunizations pursuant to section 15-873" to "decide whether to immunize one's child as prescribed in section 15-872." It essentially eliminates school tracking of immunizations and the need for parents to provide an exemption, medical or personal.

[HB 2486](#) is sponsored by Rep. Frank Carroll and a list of others. This bill addresses all immunizations, not just school immunization requirements and tampers with the FDA vaccine approval process, attempting to replace it with criteria set by the state. It addresses exemptions, clinical trials, placebos, long-term potential to cause cancer and other medical conditions, and other criteria that cannot be met.

[SB 1075](#), a bill from the Homeopathic Physicians Board that creates a new license for the practice

of integrated medicine” and also would allow midlevel practitioners to be licensed, neither of which went through a sunrise process.

The Budget

Governor Ducey proposed his [FY 2021 budget](#).

The Executive Budget is rather light on health and welfare initiatives (and there’s nothing about a hospital and physician rate increase under AHCCCS). Here are the notable ones Team Ducey proposes, mostly on the welfare side:

- \$24 M in one-time funding for AHCCCS caseloads and capitation rates
- \$14 M to provide incentives for parents to adopt sibling groups and children with significant developmental disabilities
- \$11 M for a 10% pay raises for Department of Child Safety caseworkers
- \$6 M in ongoing funding from the Medical Marijuana Fund to provide critical access to opioid treatment services to uninsured and underinsured Arizonans
- \$5 M to double the “Grandmother” stipend for family members who serve as caregivers for children in out-of-home-care, otherwise known as “kinship care”
- \$1 M to improve health of newborns by adding two more tests to newborn screening
- \$400,000 to establish a Suicide Mortality Review Team to reduce suicide rates and target high-risk populations

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

Important News About AOMA Executive Staff

With great sadness we announce that Pete Wertheim, MS has resigned as Executive Director of AOMA effective January 13, 2020 due to serious health issues.

We are all shocked and saddened with this news of Pete's illness and his departure will create a void which will be difficult to fill given all he has done for AOMA and the people of the great state of Arizona. Rest assured all that can be done to facilitate this transition is being done and we will continue to lead the way and follow it through to completion. The Executive Committee has established a search committee to find a highly-qualified individual who possesses the right qualities to serve as AOMA's new Executive Director. Until a selection and offer are made and accepted, our Director of Membership and Communications Janet Weigel has been named Interim Executive Director.

If anyone wishes to send a note to Pete, please feel free to direct it to the AOMA office and our staff will forward it to him.

Please keep Pete and his wonderful wife Adela in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you for your support of our Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association.



Janet Weigel

Reserve Your Spot for DO Day - Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Support AOMA's policy agenda and learn how to be a successful advocate for your patients.

Who: AOMA physician members and student members
What: Wear your white coat and meet with legislators, accompanied by an AOMA physician. Prominent legislators, physicians, and policymakers will share valuable advocacy advice and insight into the most critical issues impacting healthcare.



Where: Arizona State Legislature,
1700 W. Washington St., Phoenix, AZ 85007
When: Tuesday, February 18, 2020
Why: To discuss issues impacting osteopathic medicine

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

Coronavirus Confirmed in Arizona

As of January 26, 2020, there has been one confirmed case of 2019-nCoV in Arizona. This is one of five confirmed cases (all travel associated) reported to date within the United States. This is a rapidly evolving situation, and information will be updated on the [ADHS website](#) as it becomes available.

Arizona clinicians are recommended to:

- Mask and isolate patients presenting with acute respiratory illness and recent travel from Wuhan City, China in the last 14 days of symptom onset.
- Immediately notify your healthcare facility's [infection control personnel](#) and [local health department](#).
- Healthcare personnel encountering a suspect patient should use [standard precautions](#), [contact precautions](#), [airborne precautions](#), and use eye protection (e.g., goggles or a face shield).
- Obtain a detailed travel history for patients being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness.
- Consider testing for seasonal respiratory illnesses, like influenza.
- Coordinate with the local health department for [specimen collection](#), transport, and testing for suspect cases.

The Arizona Department of Health Services and local health departments are coordinating surveillance, infection control, and communication with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regarding 2019-nCoV.

For up to date information for providers, please visit the [ADHS website](#). For general national information, visit the [CDC website](#). If you have any questions, please contact your [local health department](#).

Dawn Walker, DO is New AZBOEMS Board Member

Dawn K. Walker, DO has been appointed by Governor Douglas A. Ducey to the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery (AZBOEMS). Dr. Walker has taken her oath of office and will begin serving on the AZBOEMS during the regularly scheduled meeting, Saturday, February 29, 2020.

Dr. Walker is the owner of Walker Family Medicine in Willcox, Arizona. A graduate of the College of Osteopathic Medicine in Pomona, California, she completed her internship and residency in family medicine at Mesa General Hospital.

Congratulations, Dr. Walker, and thank you for your service to your profession.



New, Improved AOMA Website

Earlier this month, AOMA launched a new, mobile-responsive website. As part of the Association's Transformation Plan, the website has been redesigned and optimized for display on mobile devices.

Check it out at www.az-osteo.org.



Presidential Preference Election - Deadline to Register is February 18

The Arizona 2020 Presidential Preference Election (PPE) is March 17, 2020. The PPE is an election in which voters can choose who they would like to be their presidential candidate in the upcoming General Election.

Only voters registered with the participating parties can vote in the PPE. The Democratic Party is the only political party participating in the PPE, so only voters registered as Democrats can vote in this PPE.

The deadline to register to vote in the PPE is February 18, 2020. You may register online at <https://servicearizona.com/webapp/evoter>

AOMA 98th Annual Convention

Plan to attend the AOMA 98th Annual Convention - the largest annual medical conference in Arizona - April 1 to 5, 2020 at our **NEW LOCATION** Embassy Suites by Hilton Scottsdale Resort. The theme of the 2020 Convention is **Finding Health**. The five-day CME event is anticipated to offer more than 35.0 hours of AOA Category 1-A credit and has been approved for *AMA PRA Category 1 creditsTM*.

Registration is open at www.az-osteo.org/2020Conv



Last Chance to Make a Pledge for Arizona Osteopathic Charities

The deadline to pledge in the the Birdies for Charity competition at the 2020 Waste Management Phoenix Open is **February 2, 2020**. Help Arizona Osteopathic Charities reach its goal of \$3,000. To make a pledge online go to birdiesforcharityaz.com.





Positive Returns On Your Membership Investment

www.az-osteo.org/BusinessPartners

AOMA's Business Partners Program provides immediate access to national and local high-quality providers. Special rates have been negotiated and we have tested their ability to provide exceptional service for our association members.

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Know a trusted business you would recommend as an AOMA Business Partner? Contact us at communications@az-osteo.org or 602-266-6699.

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 a \$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

- AOMA Board of Trustees Meeting** - February 8, 2020
- AOMA DO Day at the Legislature** - February 18, 2020
- AOMA 98th Annual Convention** - April 1-5, 2020
- AOMA Board of Trustees Meeting** - April 1, 2020
- AOMA House of Delegates Meeting** - April 3, 2020



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The AOMA Dispatch is published monthly. Direct your questions and comments to AOMA at communications@az-osteo.org

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