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## Advocacy. Connection. Community.

Everything we accomplished this year was grounded in one goal: supporting you and the patients you serve. Together, we strengthened advocacy efforts, deepened professional connections, and reinforced the values that define medicine in Thurston County.

**Advocacy Wins:** With strong engagement from physicians and PAs across our county, 2025 brought important legislative victories that protect patients, defend evidence-based care, and support sustainable practice. Highlights include:

- **Medicaid Access Program:** Establishes a pathway to raise Medicaid reimbursement rates for physician and PA services toward Medicare-equivalent levels, improving access to care and supporting clinic viability.
- **Public Health & Vaccine Protections:** Safeguards evidence-based public health communication and vaccine policy at the state and local level.
- **Firearm Safety:** Requires a permit-to-purchase system for firearms, strengthening accountability and helping prevent gun violence.
- **Reproductive & Gender-Affirming Care Protections:** Strengthens Washington's shield law to protect patients and providers delivering reproductive and gender-affirming health care.
- **Mental Health Parity:** Updates state law to ensure medically necessary mental health and substance use disorder services are covered in line with clinical standards.

## Membership Events

**Connection is at the heart of TMCMS.** In 2025, we created spaces for members to learn, recharge, and strengthen relationships — because a strong medical community starts with meaningful connection.

**Post-Legislative Summit Happy Hour** Following the WSMA Legislative Summit, we gathered at Uptown Grill to unwind and reconnect. With great food, craft cocktails, and lively conversation, the evening offered members a chance to reflect on the session and build relationships beyond the marble halls of Olympia.

**Annual Meeting Keynote: The Evolving Landscape of Healthcare Regulation** At our 2025 Annual Meeting, we were honored to welcome Washington State Insurance Commissioner Patty Kuderer as our keynote speaker. Commissioner Kuderer shared thoughtful insights on the changing regulatory environment and what it means for physicians and PAs across Washington. Her commitment to patient rights and healthcare policy sparked meaningful dialogue about the road ahead for our profession.

**Engage Your Voice: Legislative Update, Resolution Workshop & Happy Hour** In June, members gathered for an energizing evening of advocacy and idea-sharing. Senator Jessica Bateman, Representative Lisa Parshley, and WSMA Director of Government Affairs Sean Graham provided a dynamic recap of the 2025 legislative session and a look at future priorities.

Building on that momentum, members participated in an interactive resolution workshop — learning how to draft impactful policy proposals and brainstorming ideas together. The evening empowered members to actively shape the agenda for the upcoming House of Delegates.

**Museum Fun at the TMCMS Summer Social** Nearly 150 members, future members, and family joined us at the Hands On Children’s Museum for our annual Summer Social. With music from Sturgeon Moon, great food, refreshing drinks, and an adventurous scavenger hunt for the kids, the evening was filled with laughter and connection. It was a joyful reminder that medicine is not just a profession — it’s a community.

**Trivia Night and Happy Hour** We closed out the year with a lively, low-pressure trivia night — an evening to unwind, enjoy great wine, and connect with colleagues outside the clinical setting. Whether members came to compete or simply to relax, the night was filled with laughter, camaraderie, and community.

### **Making a Mark at the WSMA House of Delegates**

Did you know? We have one of the **most active and influential medical societies** in Washington! Our mighty delegation represented our members at the annual WSMA House of Delegates in Bellevue. **We championed several key resolutions, including the following:**

- **Protecting Physician Autonomy:** We advocated for support of legislation to strengthen corporate practice of medicine (CPOM) restrictions in Washington state and to provide input to protect physician autonomy in clinical and business decision making, close loopholes and ensuring effective implementation. *(Adopted as amended)*
- **Expanding Vaccine Access to Young Adults Through Age 26:** We supported new policy to extend publicly funded vaccine access—comparable to the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program—to eligible individuals through age 26, and to collaborate with state and community partners to explore expanding state-managed vaccine programs while preserving access through private insurance coverage.
- **Improving Interstate Immunization Data Sharing:** We supported policy to strengthen and support enhanced immunization data exchange, including integration of federal and state Immunization Information Systems, to ensure timely, secure access for licensed physicians and other healthcare professionals. *(Adopted as amended)*
- **Deductible Credit for Out-of-Pocket Medical Expenses:** We supported new policy backing future state legislation to require insurers to credit patients’ deductibles and out-of-pocket maximums for eligible, medically necessary services paid directly to providers, and to establish a clear, standardized submission process for patients seeking that credit. *(Adopted as amended)*
- **Bicycling for Health:** We supported new policy promoting the safe and accessible use of bicycles by aligning with and supporting the advocacy efforts of organizations such as Cascade Bicycle Club and Washington Bikes. *(Adopted as amended)*
- **No-Fault Medical Professional Liability Insurance:** We supported new policy calling for research and exploration of a no-fault medical professional liability insurance option to help maintain a strong physician workforce in Washington state and reduce overall healthcare costs. *(Adopted as amended)*

### **Join the movement!**

Want to be part of our impactful work? Attend our **annual legislative update, resolution roundtable, and happy hour or one of our monthly resolution-writing sessions in June and July**. Watch your email for details!

**Together, we can shape the future of healthcare.**