

2020 Legislative Day Recap

by Lindsey Skubitz, 2020 PharmD Candidate

PSW's 2020 Legislative Day was a huge success, with a record attendance of almost 500 pharmacists, pharmacy students, and pharmacy technicians. Mike Gillard, President of PSW, began Legislative Day by extending a warm welcome to all attendees and thanked PSW members for their continuous involvement and contributions to advocating for the profession of pharmacy. Mike recognized the strong efforts of grassroots members which have built the foundation that we continue to build upon through creating sound policies for the future. Throughout the day, attendees were encouraged to reflect on what makes this profession great and how they will help their elected officials understand the issues important to their constituents. Those who participated in the day contributed to visits to more than 100 legislative offices, during which they discussed the importance of three pharmacy-related bills currently going through the legislative process. Danielle Womack, Vice President of Public Affairs at PSW, provided a detailed review of current issues to prepare everyone for these visits. Issue briefs for the policies that attendees discussed follow this article.

Legislative Day began with the presentation of PSW legislative awards to a PSW pharmacist member, three pharmacy students, and two legislators. Every year, PSW recognizes a PSW member for his or her grassroots advocacy commitment to the pharmacy profession. Additionally, pharmacy students are recognized that have demonstrated growing professional advocacy skills. Legislators that have exhibited a commitment to advancing our practice also received legislative awards.

Following the presentation of awards, Adam Gregg delivered an update on pharmacist provider status. PSW's provider status task force has been in communication with other states, including Washington and Tennessee, that already have provider status with the goal of learning from those pharmacy associations. The goal of pharmacist

provider status is to add pharmacists to the list of covered Medicaid providers and providers under other payors. They also seek to assess the needs for preparedness to provider status across all practice settings. The ultimate goal of pharmacist provider status is to improve patient access and health outcomes.

While there is no current legislation being proposed regarding pharmacist provider status, the goal is to have legislature ready to introduce for the 2021 Legislative Session. During the rest of the 2020 calendar year, the task force seeks to bring awareness to the topic, build relationships with both internal and external stakeholders, and build excitement and preparedness for pharmacist provider status. Adam closed the presentation by stating "Let's work together to unite our voice" as a call for attendees to bring this topic back to our workplaces and to have conversations about the mission and goals of provider status.

Pharmacy Examining Board (PEB) members John Weitekamp, Rocky LaDien, and Philip Trapskin shared an update on PEB activity concerning Phar 6, 7, 15, and 17. Additionally, Lisa Kaplan, a Diversion

Investigator with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) discussed the importance of a complete strategy to preventing drug diversion and abuse. She highlighted the important role pharmacists play as the last step between controlled substances and the end user.

Following the programming, attendees walked from Monona Terrace to the Wisconsin State Capitol to discuss all of the issue briefs with legislative offices. Feedback from the meeting was exceedingly positive. Returning attendees highlighted the strong relationships they were able to form with the elected officials and new attendees shared their excitement in discussing current legislation that will impact the profession.

As the 2019-2020 Legislative Session comes to a close, PSW is thrilled with the direction in which pharmacy-related legislation is moving. We appreciate the time and energy PSW members contributed through grassroots efforts by attending Legislative Day. If you are interested in continuing to advocate for the profession, PSW offers a number of opportunities to get involved. See more at <http://www.pswi.org/becomeinvolved>.

Lindsey Skubitz is a 4th Year Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy in Madison, WI.

PSW Good Government Award (below)

Thad Schumacher, who recently completed his eighth year serving on the Pharmacy Examining Board (PEB). Thad served as Chairman of the PEB for much of his tenure and oversaw the PEB's rewrite of Phar 15 (compounding) and Phar 7 (pharmacy practice).





PSW Student Good Government Award (above)

Medical College of Wisconsin: Amanda Walter (left)

Concordia University Wisconsin: Jason Chladek (middle)

UW-Madison: Dan Funk (right)

PSW Legislator of the Year (below)

Senator Patrick Testin and Representative Tony Kurtz, who championed legislation that eliminates the need for pharmacists to have vaccine protocols in place in order to administer vaccines to patients aged 6 and older, while also allowing pharmacists to immunize patients under age 6 in certain circumstances. This legislation has removed barriers to immunizing in pharmacies, thereby increasing patient access to this crucial pharmacist-provided public health service.

