



Legislative Day Recap



2023 PSW LEGISLATIVE DAY

Thursday, March 30, 2023
Monona Terrace Convention Center Madison



2023 PSW Legislative Day Recap

by Will Carns, 2023 PharmD Candidate

PSW's 2023 Legislative Day brought together more than 225 pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and students from across the state of Wisconsin.

This year marked the first time the event was held in-person since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The morning opened with an address by PSW President Janet Fritsch, who offered a warm welcome to attendees and thanked members for their advocacy for the profession and their continued support of PSW. This year, PSW is highlighting the importance of storytelling. Fritsch spoke about how everyone's story is unique, and that telling your own story is key to influencing the future of pharmacy. Throughout the morning, attendees were encouraged to reflect on their own experiences in pharmacy in preparation for discussions with legislators.

Fritsch then presented the PSW Student Good Government Award, given to those who have shown significant advocacy for the profession. This year, the honor was awarded to three students: Kourtney Peterson (UW-Madison), Ryan Rypel (Concordia University), and Saba Tahir (Medical College of Wisconsin). The PSW Good Government Awards was then presented to Jake Olson, the 340b Pharmacy Manager at Froedtert Health, for his role as an educator to state and federal policymakers on the topics of pharmacy compounding, payment, and patient care. Olson shared a few anecdotes about how he leverages storytelling to effectively communicate his

perspectives.

The morning continued with Danielle Womack, PSW Vice President of Public Affairs, introducing a lively bipartisan panel of legislative leaders. Panelists included State Senator Rachel Cabral-Guevara, State Representative Donna Rozar, State Senator Kelda Roys, and State Representative Lisa Subeck. Each member opened with a brief introduction and an overview of the current bills being worked on for the legislative session. Womack then asked each panelist about current pressing issues in pharmacy, including drug costs, support for medical marijuana, healthcare workforce issues, and Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) licensing delays. The panelists offered insights into policy-making, debunked common misconceptions, and emphasized that, despite appearances, there is more bipartisan support for healthcare-related issues than is often recognized. The session concluded with a valuable piece of advice: to remain engaged with legislators of all political backgrounds, as these interactions will ultimately shape the future of pharmacy.

Following the panel discussion, Chairperson John Weitekamp and Vice Chairperson Tiffany O'Hagan gave an update on Pharmacy Examining Board (PEB) activities regarding Phar 1, 5, 7, 10, 18, and 19, which include technician registration, changes to the top 100 drugs list, and third-party logistics providers. PEB resources on applications and licensure dates were shared, and pharmacists were encouraged to stay up to date by registering

for email updates on the DSPS website.

Next, Sarah Sorum, Executive Vice President and CEO of PSW, took the stage to moderate a panel focused on the status of the pharmacy workforce. Sorum began with a presentation on trauma-informed leadership and the risks trauma poses in the workplace. The increased trauma experienced over the last few years of the pandemic has been especially difficult and has led to issues in the pharmacy workforce. Despite these issues, PSW has remained dedicated to its mission of "One Voice, One Vision" by continuing to provide opportunities connecting the pharmacy community. Sorum then welcomed pharmacist panel members Rocky LaDien, Milwaukee Area Healthcare Supervisor at Walgreens; Chad Smith, Vice President of Pharmacy Operations at Advocate Aurora Health; and Hannel Tibagwa Ambord, Director of Pharmacy Services at Reedsburg Area Medical Center, to share examples of what they are seeing in their practices and strategies to manage challenges. One key takeaway from the discussion was the need for pharmacists to collaborate as a single profession, rather than operating under separate disciplines. The panelists emphasized that the success of one pharmacy is intimately tied to the success of others, and that a collaborative effort is necessary to address the challenges faced by the industry.

The day concluded with an overview by Womack of three bills that are currently being worked on to prepare for discussion at legislator office visits. The first bill involves

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pharmacist prescribing of contraception in pharmacies. The second bill regards issues related to Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) reform and patient choice in pharmacy. The bill is currently in the drafting phase. The third bill involves eliminating the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE) for pharmacy graduates to help address issues in licensing delays. Following this overview, attendees walked to the Wisconsin State Capitol to discuss these bills with legislators.

Legislative Day 2023 was another successful opportunity to highlight the importance of PSW member advocacy. Following a successful virtual version of the event in 2021 and 2022, members of the pharmacy profession were once again able to show their support through in-person visits to the capitol. As the practice of pharmacy continues to advance, PSW encourages you to continue sharing your story to advocate for the profession. PSW offers a number of opportunities to get involved at <https://www.pswi.org/Get-Involved>.

Will Carns is a 2023 Doctor of Pharmacy Candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Pharmacy in Madison, WI.



Left: PSW President, Janet Fritsch (left), Michael Plautz (center), and award recipient Ryan Rypel (right).



Below: PSW President, Janet Fritsch (left), Michael Nome (center), and award recipient Kourtney Peterson (right).



Left: Award recipient Saba Tahir (left), Karen MacKinnon (center), and PSW President, Janet Fritsch (right).

Below: PSW President, Janet Fritsch (left), and Good Government award recipient Jake Olson.

