

NMPS State Government Affairs Committee (SGAC)

Many interests compete for the attention of policymakers, especially in difficult economic times. That is why it is more important than ever for pediatricians to vigorously voice their support for or opposition to proposed legislation that impacts child health and the profession of pediatrics in New Mexico.

The SGAC is charged with reviewing and recommending chapter support or opposition for proposed changes in state law. The committee also provides direction to legislators and other advocacy partners on child health and practice issues during the legislative session.

All NMPS members have an important role to play in advocating for children, whether it consists of speaking directly with their legislators, making phone calls, writing letters, sending emails, or testifying before a legislative committee.

How do you get your message to your legislators?

Email or call your legislators. You can search by name, district or zip code on the NM legislature website:

<http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/legislatorsearch.aspx>

Begin your email message or phone call by offering your assistance to them as an expert in child health. Legislators rely on “experts” to help them with decision-making. Invite them to coffee or lunch. All legislators must live in the district from which they are elected, so they may already live or work close to you. You may want to discuss a specific issue, or simply encourage their support for a child-friendly agenda. Over time, your legislators will come to rely on your pediatric expertise and turn to you when issues arise. Follow every meeting with a thank you note or email. Remember, your legislator is a citizen-legislator and receives no salary for their services to the state.

During the year, the SGAC will send members email blasts that identify issues that it has prioritized for us as a chapter.

You can also sign up to receive regular email updates on proposed legislation and legislative events by joining our Legislative Action Network (LAN). Contact us at nmpeds@yahoo.com to join now.

Current EC members, committee chairs and key contacts are presumed to belong to the LAN unless we hear differently from you.



Want to be even more involved? Contact Larry Shandler, MD, SGAC Chair at shandlerlaurence@gwestoffice.net to join the SGAC and help shape our next agenda!

Larry receiving the AAP Special Achievement Award at the Roundhouse during the 2010 Children's Cabinet Days.