



NEW MEXICO MEDICAL SOCIETY

William Ritchie MD, NMMS President 2016-2017



YOUR VOICE FOR MEDICINE 2017 Legislative Update - Week 4

[Week 4 of the NMMS legislative report - or the condensed priority bill version](#) - are available to download and review.

Senator Gerry Ortiz y Pino, chair of Senate Public Affairs Committee, asked other committee members if they had been flooded with letters and calls by doctors and the public on bills that the Medical Society either supported or opposed. All committee members confirmed that they too had been receiving untold numbers of emails and that there was no doubt about what NMMS either supported or opposed this year! So thank you to all who sent letters and called last week on behalf of the various scope expansion bills.

This last week SB 150 - Chiropractic Expansion to PCP - was defeated in Senate Public Affairs by a 5 to 3 vote. I testified with pleasure against the bill on 2/7.

SB 82 and SB 128 - Non-Compete Venue Fix - were essentially combined by Committee Substitution to include nurse midwives and nurse practitioner as protected from non-compete clauses in employment contracts. The bill further clarifies that New Mexico is the sole venue for litigation.

SB 90 - Prescribing Psychologists - will next be heard in

Senate Judiciary. NMMS reached agreement with the sponsor for amendments to include requirements to query the PMP, to remove allowance for prescribing psychologist to supervise those in training, and to keep the requirement that the Medical Board approves all training programs.

HB 215 - Collaboration between Physician and PA - will be heard on 2/11 in House Health and Human Services. A compromise was reached and amendments were accepted by the PAs. The bill creates an optional two-tiered track after 3 years of supervision. The application process and collaboration program will be regulated by the Medical Board. If a PA enters into a collaborative arrangement, they will bear all liability for their actions. **Dr. Sandra Whisler, NMMS Vice President**, will testify in support of the bill.

Despite much discussion and work, NMMS will not support HB 232 - Holistic Integrative Medicine Practitioner at the HHHS meeting on 2/11. **Dr. Whisler** and **Dr. Grant LaFarge**, Medical Director of the Medical Board, will testify against the bill.

SB 145 - Scope of Practice Act - has yet to be scheduled in Senate Rules. However, at all hearings where scope is discussed - chiropractors, acupuncturists, lay midwives, physician assistants, psychologists - the bill is mentioned and support is expressed - no opportunity is missed! Please continue to send letters from [QualityHealthForNewMexico](http://QualityHealthForNewMexico.org) in **SUPPORT of SB 145.**

If you prefer to call legislators, dial 505-986- and the 4 digits associated with each [Senator Phone List](#) or [Representative Phone List](#).

If you have any questions, please contact me directly, Executive Director Randy Marshall at rmarshall@nmms.org, your Councilor as listed below by component society, or reply to this email.

With best regards always,

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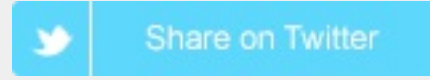
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