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Idaho Medical Association

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IMAgEs

December 15, 2018

Lawsuit Challenges Prop 2/IMA Petition to Intervene Granted After the strong passage of Prop 2, the Idaho Freedom Foundation filed a lawsuit against the state challenging the law's constitutionality. Subsequently, the Supreme Court agreed to take the case.

As part of the coalition of Medicaid expansion supporters, IMA tracked this issue from the beginning. Given IMA's significant financial and in-kind support of the campaign to pass Prop 2, as well as the overwhelming support and involvement of our physician members, our leadership determined that IMA would seek to intervene in the lawsuit.

IMA filed a petition on behalf of two individuals in the gap as well as an individual physician (Bruce Belzer, MD), seeking to be allowed to intervene in the lawsuit to defend Prop 2/Medicaid expansion. On December 18, the Supreme Court granted the request and will allow IMA to share oral argument time and ordered that an Intervenor/Respondents brief be filed by Monday, December 24. Fortunately, working under hopeful anticipation that the petition would be granted, IMA's attorneys have been working on the brief and it will be finalized by the deadline.

IMA has consulted with the American Medical Association Litigation Center, and they have resources available to help IMA in this important case. We are grateful to the AMA for the support they provide to state medical associations and our member physicians.

This process has moved very quickly and IMA will continue to provide updates. Please contact IMA CEO Susie Pouliot at susie@idmed.org if you have any questions.

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Happy Holidays

Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a happy New Year from the

RESOURCE

"For more than 40 years, MIEC has been a valued partner of the IMA and an invaluable resource for our members."

Susie Pouliot
CEO, IMA

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MIEC

Idaho Medical Association.

The IMA office will be closed December 24 - December 28.

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The Idaho Medical Association Welcomes New Members A warm welcome to these physicians who have recently joined the IMA:

Amanda Berbert, MD, Family Medicine, Boise
Michael S. Blue, DO, Family Medicine, Lewiston
Gene D. Branum, General Surgery, Ketchum
Zachary D. Erekson, MD, Palliative Medicine, Boise
Bradley A. Hansen, MD, Ophthalmology, Idaho Falls
Todd G. Hastings, DO, Occupational Medicine, Twin Falls
Bryn Haws, DO, Pathology, Hematology, Idaho Falls
Jason Hooton, MD, Ophthalmology, Idaho Falls
Robert A. Lockwood, MD, Gastroenterology, Boise
MaryAlice Lopez, MD, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Boise
Jared K. Manwaring, MD, Urology, Idaho Falls
Curtis A. Meske, MD, Family Medicine, McCall
Pamela D. Mills, MD, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Twin Falls
Jason A. Orien, MD, Urology, Pocatello
Bronwyn C. Richards, MD, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Meridian
Dallas Rindfleisch, DO, Family Medicine, Idaho Falls
Jonathan Salberg, DO, Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases, Boise
Thomas A. Scandalis, DO, Administrative Physician
Jennifer T. Shalz, MD, Radiology, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, Meridian
Lauren M. Shea, MD, Gastroenterology, Internal Medicine, Boise
Ryan Q. Turner, DO, Pediatrics, Twin Falls
Garth D. Warren, MD, Anatomic Pathology, Neuropathology, Boise
Dewayne L. Weaver, MD, Orthopedic Surgery, Lewiston

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Congratulations to the 2018 IMA Foundation Program Award Winners!
 Earlier this year, the Idaho Medical Association Foundation announced it would be making awards to support Idaho medical education and residency training as well as to support other activities to recruit and encourage physicians to practice in Idaho. The IMA Foundation is a 501(c)3 arm of the Idaho Medical Association.

The awards were based on the following criteria:

Background: Adequate experience, knowledge, and qualifications to perform in accordance with Foundation goals
Commitment to Idaho: Demonstrated commitment to Idaho, including years in the state, where headquartered and mission specific to Idaho

Commitment to Underserved: The extent to which the program focuses on bringing services and solutions to Idaho's rural and/or medically underserved populations

Budget: The extent to which the budget and justification align with Foundation goals

Scope of Proposal: The extent to which the scope of the proposal fulfills Foundation goals, meets an Idaho healthcare need, and does so in a fiscally sound manner

On behalf of IMA Foundation President Keith Davis, MD and the members of the IMA Foundation Board, congratulations to the following award winners:

Ada County Medical Society
 Bingham Memorial Hospital
 FMRI Boise
 FMRI Nampa
 ISU Family Medicine Residency
 University of Utah School of Medicine
 UW Psychiatry, Idaho Track

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2019 MPFS Final Rule: Summary of Policy Changes The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has published a MLN Matters article summarizing the policies in the 2019 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule. MLN Matters Article MM11063 is available on the home page of the IMA website in the "News" section at www.idmed.org.

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Judge Strikes Down ACA Putting Law In Legal Peril – Again The future of the Affordable Care Act is threatened - again - this time by a ruling December 14 from a federal district court judge in Texas.

Judge Reed C. O'Connor struck down the law, siding with a group of 18 Republican state attorneys general and two GOP governors who brought the case. O'Connor said the tax bill passed by Congress last December effectively rendered the entire health law unconstitutional.

That tax measure eliminated the penalty for not having insurance. An earlier Supreme Court decision upheld the ACA based on the view that the penalty was a tax and thus the law was valid because it relied on appropriate power allowed Congress under the Constitution. O'Connor's decision said that without that penalty, the law no longer met that constitutional test.

"In some ways, the question before the Court involves the intent of both the 2010 and 2017 Congresses," O'Connor wrote in his 55-page decision (<https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/attachments/press-docs/211-texas-order-granting-plaintiffs-partial-summary-judgment.pdf>). "The former enacted the ACA. The latter sawed off the last leg it stood on."

The decision came just hours before the end of open enrollment for ACA plans in most states that use the

federal healthcare.gov insurance exchange. It is not expected that the ruling will impact the coverage for those people - the final decision will likely not come until the case reaches the Supreme Court again.

Seema Verma, the administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which oversees those insurance exchanges, said in a tweet: "The recent federal court decision is still moving through the courts, and the exchanges are still open for business and we will continue with open enrollment. There is no impact to current coverage or coverage in a 2019 plan."

The 16 Democratic state attorneys general who intervened in the case to defend the health law immediately vowed to appeal.

It is all but certain the case will become the third time the Supreme Court decides a constitutional question related to the ACA. In addition to upholding the law in 2012, the court rejected another challenge to the law in 2015.

It is hard to overstate what would happen to the nation's health care system if the decision is ultimately upheld. The Affordable Care Act touched almost every aspect of health care, from Medicare and Medicaid to generic biologic drugs, the Indian Health Service, and public health changes like calorie counts on menus.

The case, *Texas v. United States* (<https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/6321938/texas-v-united-states-of-america/?page=1>), was filed in February. The plaintiffs argued that because the Supreme Court upheld the ACA in 2012 as a constitutional use of its taxing power, the elimination of the tax makes the rest of the law unconstitutional.

In June, the Justice Department announced it would not fully defend the law in court. While the Trump administration said it did not agree with the plaintiffs that the tax law meant the entire ACA was unconstitutional, it said that the provisions of the law guaranteeing that people with preexisting health conditions could purchase coverage at the same price as everyone else were so inextricably linked to the tax penalty that they should be struck. [Rovner, *Kaiser Health News*, 12/14]

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Flu Vaccinations Rise Sharply in Both Children and Adults Last winter's dreadful flu season may have had a silver lining: Flu vaccine uptake rose sharply this fall in both children and adults, according to newly released data.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported December 14 that the number of children and teens vaccinated as of mid-November was up nearly 7 percentage points over last year at that time and coverage among adults was up 6.4 percentage points.

The data, which were drawn from three CDC-sponsored surveys, do not indicate whether more people will be vaccinated overall this winter - or that last year's flu season is changing behavior this winter. The increase could mean that more people were inspired to get their flu shot sooner this year.

"It's a good sign, but it's too early to interpret," said Michael Osterholm, director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Diseases Research and Policy

The CDC report noted that experience from previous flu seasons shows that people continue to get vaccinated through the winter and even into spring, with end-of-season rates in children 19 percentage points higher than the early season rates, and 8 percentage points higher in adults.

Flu activity so far this season remains low, though there are signs that it is picking up steam. Five child flu deaths have been reported to the CDC. [Branswell, *STAT News*, 12/14]

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2019 IMA Webinars
First Session Scheduled for Wednesday, January 23

Happy Holidays! January 23 kicks off the 2019 schedule of the IMA's teleconference/webinar series when IMA Reimbursement Director Teresa Cirelli, CPC, CPMA presents Challenges and Changes: First Quarter Updates. Join her for a for a timely review of policy and reimbursement changes from payers and an in depth look at chronic care and transitional care management coding.

Then, on February 20, the book review series returns with a review of AMA's Risk Adjustment Documentation & Coding. Detailed documentation and compliant diagnosis coding are critical for proper risk adjustment. The book will be available for purchase for \$55, but is not required to participate in the webinar.

The 2019 schedule of educational sessions has been finalized and several new topics are featured along with returning favorites. The schedule is available on the home page of the IMA website at www.idmed.org. Online registration for the webinars is available this year. If you have any questions, please contact us at rebecca@idmed.org or 208-344-7888.

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Info to Go: DuckDuckGo Search Engine

Tina Slanc, MLIS, Kissler Library at Saint Alphonsus
tina.slanc@saintalphonsus.org

Who doesn't like cookies? Peanut butter. Chocolate chip. Peanut butter with chocolate chip. There's no such thing as a bad cookie, right? Unfortunately, there are types of cookies that you should try to avoid. And those are the cookies that websites and marketing companies place on your computer to track what you're doing and where you're going on the web. This is one of the main methods search engines, like Google, use to make their money and are doing it whether you realize it or not. Fortunately, there is one search engine out there that does NOT do this, and is actually looking out for you. The name of this search engine is DuckDuckGo.

DuckDuckGo is a search engine that does not:

- Share personal information
- Follow you with advertising
- Track your movements on the web
- Use "filter bubbles" (A filter bubble "conditions" your search based on the history of your previous searches. The search engine is providing results they think are relevant.)

DuckDuckGo also allows you to:

- Prevent sharing your search with sites you click on
- Save your settings anonymously to the cloud

Give it a try at <https://duckduckgo.com/>

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Medical Practice Opportunities

Remote/Independent Contractor Physician: Board certified or eligible in ob/gyn, urology, family medicine, emergency medicine, preventative medicine

We are Ro, a mission-driven healthcare technology company where doctors, pharmacists and engineers are working together to reinvent the way the healthcare system works. Ro is currently seeking remote physicians to provide care to our members via our telemedicine platform.

For more information, visit <https://ro.co/>. To apply, please contact athena@ro.co.

Physician - Nampa

Family Medicine Residency of Idaho Nampa is a new program recruiting for an experienced physician to join our faculty group. We are developing a 6-6-6 program in a Teaching Health Center and small community hospital. Our program will focus on preparing residents for rural practice and care of the underserved. We are looking for a physician interested in broad scope in-patient work with adults, OB (ability to do CS if fellowship trained) and adolescent care. Outpatient work will be in a Teaching Health Center (FQHC) that is also a level 3 PCMH. We are supported by a clinical care team of a psychologist, dietician, clinical pharmacist, care coordinators and community health workers. We believe in team based, patient focused care and community engagement. Our community is approximately 35 percent Spanish speaking and so Spanish language skills are appreciated.

The Family Medicine Residency of Idaho is the sponsoring institution and they have an over 40 year history of producing strong, rural physicians in the Boise core program and 2 rural training tracks. The position is open now with a start date as soon as possible. Employees are eligible to participate in a comprehensive benefits package. Interested parties should contact Kim Stutzman, MD, kim.stutzman@fmidaho.org

Large, Independent Multi-Specialty Group Looking to Grow
Nampa, Meridian, Boise and Caldwell, Idaho
Full-Time

Saltzer Medical Group (SMG) is seeking growth opportunities with other like-minded physicians interested in joining an independent, multi-specialty practice in Idaho's Treasure Valley. Current specialties include Family Practice, Internal Medicine, OB/GYN, Pediatrics, Neurology, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, Pulmonology, Rheumatology, Sleep Medicine and Urgent Care. Opportunities exist for Primary Care and Specialty Physicians, as well as Advanced Practice Providers, to join a well-established group of 50 plus providers.

SMG is an independent physician-led, professionally managed, large multi-specialty practice with six locations in Nampa, Meridian, Boise and Caldwell, Idaho. SMG was established in 1961 by Dr. Joseph Saltzer and the friendly, patient-oriented approach that characterized his practice is still faithfully adhered to, even in these technologically advanced times.

Contact: Vicki Tyler at 208-463-3158 or vdytler@saltzermid.com for additional information.

BC/BE Clinical Gastroenterologist
Nampa, Idaho
Full-Time

Saltzer Medical Group (SMG) is an independent physician-led, professionally managed, large multi-specialty practice with six locations in Nampa, Meridian, Boise, and Caldwell, Idaho. SMG was established in 1961 by Dr. Joseph Saltzer and the friendly patient-oriented approach that characterized his practice is still faithfully adhered to, even in these technologically advanced times.

SMG is seeking a BE/BC Gastroenterologist to work in our on-site Endoscopy Suite. Candidate would be assuming a mature practice and join a well-established, multi-specialty independent practice in Idaho's Treasure Valley. The practice offers a competitive salary with incentive and comprehensive benefits, along with a strong referral base within the practice.

Contact: Vicki Tyler at 208-463-3158 or vdytler@saltzermid.com for additional information.

Primary Health Medical Group, Boise

Primary Health Medical Group (PHMG) is hiring full-time board certified/eligible FAMILY PHYSICIANS for OUTPATIENT FAMILY MEDICINE positions in Boise, Nampa, and Meridian, Idaho. Our clinics are based on a patient centered medical home model that gives the family doctor the support and time that encourages trusting relationships with their patients. Family physicians work 4-4.5 days per week and hospital call is 1 out of every 20 nights consisting of nurse triaged phone calls with no visits to the hospital.

URGENT CARE positions are also available for FAMILY PHYSICIANS, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS or NURSE PRACTITIONERS – Our ideal candidate would be board certified/eligible. Urgent care positions require the provider to work approximately 14 twelve-hour shifts per month and be comfortable with the fast paced environment of an urgent care clinic. Our clinics are based on a combination clinic that has urgent care and appointment family medicine practice at the same site. Urgent care and appointment providers work together to address the patients' episodic and chronic care problems. Must be willing to work some weekends and twelve hour shifts.

Primary Health is an independent, predominantly primary care medical group with 15 clinics (soon to be 17) and more than 300,000 patient visits per year. A leader in implementing quality programs, PHMG has been using electronic health records since 2007. Physicians follow evidence-based guidelines and engage with patients in innovative ways to promote wellness. PHMG has received local and national recognition for providing efficient, quality care. Primary Health has been voted among the top 10 Best Places to Work in Idaho, and employee turnover is low. The group provides a supportive environment where family doctors develop lasting relationships with patients and enjoy a schedule that allows time to experience the many activities Idaho has to offer. Providers also have the opportunity to invest in the medical group and become an owner.

PHMG offers the following benefits to all full time physicians: – Medical and dental insurance with PHMG covering roughly 95% of the premium. – Group life insurance with options to voluntarily buy-up – A generous own occupation/own specialty long term disability policy – \$500 worth of free services in our own clinics for the physician and his/her family (per year) – A 401(k) plan with a guaranteed match – Payment for malpractice insurance, licensing fees, professional memberships and CME. PHMG offers a strong benefits package and very competitive salaries. A detailed summary of our benefits may be found on our website www.primaryhealth.com.

To place a Medical Practice Opportunities Classified Advertisement, please contact:
Margy Leach, Director of Communications at 208-344-7888 or by email margy@idmed.org.

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