



Idaho Medical Association

2019 LEGISLATURE: IMA STATUS REPORT Week of January 28 – February 1, 2019

TOP PRIORITY ISSUES

Graduate Medical Education ~ SUPPORT

IMA strongly supports full implementation of the State Board of Education's 10-Year Strategic Plan for GME Expansion, which will create 19 new slots for residents and fellows in the next year. It also increases the per-resident funding amount that the state provides to our existing GME programs, which is critical to their sustainability. This year is the second year of funding for the ten-year plan and we anticipate programs will receive an additional amount of \$1,657,500 over and above existing funding for residency programs in Idaho.

Status: Presentations to JFAC are complete; budget setting will begin in February.

Proposition 2 (Medicaid Expansion) ~ SUPPORT

IMA is fully committed to implementation of Medicaid expansion with the passage of Proposition 2 in November. Some legislators who still oppose expanding Medicaid are discussing work requirements and other possible barriers to coverage for the gap population. IMA opposes unnecessary and costly barriers to coverage in Idaho. Experience in other states shows that restrictions are very expensive for the state and do not prove to be effective at doing anything other than endangering the very coverage Idahoans voted to provide.

The IMA lobby team has heard about possible legislation being drafted for introduction in the House, but no concrete details have been made available. IMA will continue to advocate for full funding of Medicaid expansion with no additional requirements that would drive up the cost of implementation or cause damage to our rural health system.

Status: Discussions are ongoing; legislation could be introduced in the next few weeks.

Maternal Mortality Review Committee ~ SUPPORT

IMA has finalized legislation to create a Maternal Mortality Review Committee (MMRC) within the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. The US has experienced an increase in maternal deaths in recent decades that far exceeds the rates in other comparable countries. For example, the US has a maternal death rate of 26.4 per 100,000 live births compared to other countries such as UK (9.2), Germany (9), France (7.8), Canada (7.3), Spain (5.6), Italy (4.2) and Finland (3.8). (Source: *The Lancet*). Idaho had six maternal deaths in 2017 (27.1 deaths per 100,000 live births) and has had an average of just over five maternal deaths per year from 2008 to 2017 for a total of 49 maternal deaths among Idaho women in that nine-year period. (Source: *IDHW 2017 Mortality Report by Idaho Vital Statistics*).

The majority of maternal deaths are preventable and the MMRC would be created to study why maternal deaths are happening in Idaho and what can be done to improve outcomes. The MMRC would cover all deaths, regardless of provider type or birth setting. The purpose is