



No CALPAC?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By Bryant Sheehy, MD

You may think things are bad now, but they could get a lot worse without strong physician support of the CMA's Political Action Committee.

WHAT IF THERE WERE NO CALPAC?

No CALPAC is synonymous with no MICRA, triple or greater malpractice insurance premiums, medical prescriptions and hospital admissions and discharges by non-physicians, complete loss of physician autonomy, and many more dangers to our population; perhaps even surgery by non-physicians.

WAKE UP PHYSICIANS!!

Even though you are over-worked and tired, take five minutes to support this organization.

You think it's bad now? Friend, it can be many times worse! Health issues are constantly challenged. We absolutely need an organization that can maintain the vigil, while we are caring for our patients.

I hate to continually badger our members and non-members, but we cannot consider ourselves responsible physicians without taking action to assure the health of our patients outside of the four walls of our offices, our groups, or our specialties.

DAMMIT! Stand up for our principles! Show our community that we care!

Only 20 percent of CMA members and 10 percent of physicians in the state contribute to CALPAC. This is not acceptable! Especially when this organization has proven to be a major protector for maintaining high standards of health care in our state.

The California Medical Association's Political Action Committee (CALPAC) is the physician's voice in our state legislature. It is operated by physicians for physicians. The Board of Directors consists of physician representatives from each of California's 40 senate districts, the CMA Board of Trustees, CMA Alliance, Medical Executives Conference, Resident Physician Society, Medical Student Section, CMA Council on Legislation, and the California Medical Assistant Association.

The CALPAC Executive Committee consists of four officers, four at-large physician members of the CALPAC Board of Directors, one medical executive representative, one CMA Alliance representative, two CMA Executive Committee member representatives, the immediate past CALPAC chair, and three additional members of the CALPAC Board of Directors appointed by the CALPAC chair.

All CALPAC administrative expenses are covered by CMA, which means all of your dollars contributed to CALPAC go to finance political action to protect and improve health care in our state.

CALPAC funds are used to back candidates to public office who share our philosophy and vision of the future of health care and the practice of medicine. These candidates have been interviewed and recommended by county medical societies in the districts these candidates are to represent. Over the past 10 years, an average of 95 percent of the candidates supported by CALPAC won their races for office.

CALPAC also maintains a Political Education Fund to educate physicians, government, the media, and the public about public policy issues of importance to medicine.

I am urging physicians to be members of CALPAC and, at least, belong to the \$25 Per Month Club; do this through a credit card program or write a check monthly payable to CALPAC. Mail your check to CALPAC, Attn: Dean Chaliros, 1201 J Street, Suite 275, Sacramento, California 95814. You can talk to someone at CALPAC at (916) 444-5532 or (800) CALPAC9.

By the way, trial attorneys made political contributions in excess of five times that of CALPAC physicians during the 1999-2000 campaign cycle.

You want things to be better? Take five minutes and support CALPAC with at least \$25 a month.

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