

What Is The CMA Legislative Key Contract Program?

Critical issues affecting today's physicians are being decided in the legislative arena at an ever-increasing, fast and furious pace. Managed care reform, scope of practice, access to care, and funding for Medi-Cal and other public-financed health programs are samples of the vital issues facing physicians today. The most important, potent, political weapon is personal communication from YOU - the practicing physician - contacting a legislator one-on-one as a **Legislative Key Contact**.

CMA's Government Relations Office in Sacramento develops and maintains an active network of physicians and their spouses as Legislative Key Contacts in every California Assembly, Senate and congressional district. At crucial times during the legislative process, legislative Key contacts communicate with their respective elected officials on major issues.

As particular bills of greatest interest to physicians are identified, CMA provides Legislative Key Contacts with analyses of the bills, CMA's official position, supporting arguments, timing of legislative action and all the pertinent information needed to present an educated viewpoint before a crucial vote is cast.

Spending only a few minutes a month to share the physician's perspective on legislation can make a **BIG** difference when your elected representative casts an important vote on a vital bill. Contact can be as simply as a basic telephone call, fax, letter, or e-mail, or as involved as arranging a meeting or lunch with a legislator, hosting or attending a small gathering with your friends featuring an elected official, or volunteering on an election campaign.

Why We Need You

As a Legislative Key Contact, you will receive Legislative Alerts and when you are "Alerted" on an issue important to you, you can easily select main points from our one-page fact sheet, and contact your legislator.

Whether you already have personal relationships with elected officials in your local area or elsewhere, or would like to build them, we encourage you to be a Legislative Key Contact and get more politically active.

Contact the Medical Society office to let us know that you are interested and which legislator or legislators you wish to serve as Key Contact with.

BE INVOLVED.....MAKE A DIFFERENCE