**ASCO 2016 State Advocacy Highlights**

| ISSUE | STATE | DESCRIPTION |
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| Chemotherapy Safe Handling/USP Chapters | **Georgia** Society of Clinical Oncology | Prior to a compounding bill (HB 926) being enacted, GASCO was successful in having the bill amended with suggested language from ASCO’s outside counsel to specifically exclude physician offices from the regulation. |
| Chemotherapy Safe Handling/USP Chapters | **Michigan** Society of Hematology & Oncology | The Society sent ASCO a MI bill on safe handling of hazardous drugs in 2015; ASCO provided analysis and guidance on it. MSHO requested that lawmakers hold off on action and the bill did not move. |
| Chemotherapy Safe Handling/USP Chapters | Medical Oncology Society of **New Jersey** | Staff notified the Society of a problematic safe handling of hazardous drugs bill on which a Senate committee hearing was planned. With help from outside counsel, ASCO and MOSNJ submitted a joint letter to the bill sponsor, committee chair, and other key lawmakers prior to the hearing. The bill had previously passed the Assembly. It was passed out of the Senate committee but has not moved. |
| Chemotherapy Safe Handling/USP Chapters |  | A PA member alerted ASCO to a problematic draft Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) compounding by physicians position statement. Outside counsel prepared an ASCO letter submitted to the FSMB Reference Committee acting on the statement. The FSMB Reference Committee did not adopt the statement; it was referred to the FSMB Board for further consideration. At its July meeting, the FSMB Board charged its Ethics and Professionalism Committee to reconsider the statement. |
| Chemotherapy Safe Handling/USP Chapters | **Virginia** Association of Hematologists & Oncologists | The VA Board of Medicine was considering changes to their existing polices. ASCO sent a letter and spoke at a BOM meeting. The BOM decided not to make any changes. |
| Clinical Pathways | Medical Oncology Association of **Southern California** | Staff for Assemblywoman Bonilla contacted Dr. Zon requesting ASCO’s input on a definition of clinical pathways and other aspects of the CA pathways bill, AB 2209. Dr. Zon and ASCO staff spoke with Bonilla staff. Outside counsel, ASCO staff and Dr. Zon prepared suggested language requested by the Bonilla staff, and ASCO shared it with MOASC and ANCO for input and then sent it to Bonilla staff. A hearing was held on the bill, and it was amended and passed out of committee. No further action will occur on the bill due to changes suggested by Kaiser and opposed by the CA Medical Association. |
| Clinical Pathways | **Connecticut** Oncology Association | Counsel and staff provided suggestions on proposed legislative language. State contact requested suggested language on prior authorization exemption; outside counsel and staff provided legislative language. A hearing was held on the bill, and it was amended and passed out of committee. No further action will happen on the bill this year. |
| Clinical Trials | **Nebraska** Oncology Society | The Society contacted ASCO regarding NE Medicaid denial of coverage for routine care costs for clinical trials participation. ASCO staff coordinated a meeting for Dr. Hauke and Dr. Vose with a state Senator and provided support for a meeting with the NE Medicaid director. In a March 2016 letter, the Medicaid director confirmed NE Medicaid does cover trials participation. There had been a misunderstanding of routine vs. investigational. |
| Opioids | Medical Oncology Society of **New Jersey** | Staff provided the Society with information on the NJ opioids bill (S 2035) and ASCO’s new opioids position statement, and offered support. ASCO submitted a letter on the bill. MOSNJ had also shared concerns with the Senate sponsor. The bill sponsor has drafted language to amend the bill in the Assembly. |
| Opioids | **Vermont (Northern New England Clinical Oncology Society)** | Staff alerted NNECOS to problematic proposed changes to the VT Rule Governing the Prescribing of Opioids and provided a press release and copy of the proposed rule, as well as ASCO’s opioids statement and policy brief as background. ASCO submitted a joint ASCO/NNECOS comment letter. |
| Opioids | Upstate **New York** Society of Medical Oncology & Hematology | Staff provided the Society with information on the NY opioids bill and ASCO’s new opioids position statement, and offered support. |
| Opioids | **Pennsylvania** Society of Oncology & Hematology | The Society requested help with language to exempt cancer patients from requirements expected to be acted on in the PA legislature. ASCO’s outside counsel prepared exemption language that was shared with the Society. ASCO sent a joint letter from PSOH and ASCO to the Governor, House and Senate leadership, and key committee members. ASCO helped with outreach to other cancer community stakeholders and AMA. The legislature ended up passing a requirement that physicians check the state prescription drug monitoring program for every opioid prescription, with no exemption for cancer patients. |
| Oral Parity | **Alabama** Cancer Congress | Staff provided the society with a draft letter of support and an action alert. ASCO submitted a stand-alone letter of support and participated in the coalition. The bill did not move. |
| Oral Parity | Denali Oncology Group (**Alaska**) | Staff provided sample talking points to society leadership on the bill. Dr. Subramanian testified on behalf of ASCO and the Denali Oncology Group during Senate hearing. Staff provided a draft support letter for the bill which was submitted from both organizations. AK Senate and House approved the bill; it was signed into law in July. |
| Oral Parity | **Michigan** Society of Hematology & Oncology | ASCO staff working closely with MSHO in support of the bill, through joint support letters, joint action alerts, joint tweets, joint press releases and statements, and Dr. Stella’s testimony on behalf of MSHO and ASCO before the Senate committee. Staff actively participating in the coalition. Committee approved bill on 4/20 and the full Senate approved it 5/10. Coalition is urging the House to act on the bill during the lame duck. |
| Oral Parity | **Pennsylvania** Society of Oncology & Hematology | Staff worked closely with PSOH and the coalition to support the PA bill. Staff provided a draft op-ed to the Society, reviewed multiple iterations of language, prepared support letters, and other forms of support. PA Senate and House approved it 6/30; it was signed into law in July. |
| Oral Parity | **Tennessee** Oncology Practice Society | Staff worked closely with TOPS and ACCC to participate in coalition efforts and support the TN bill. Dr. Jeffrey Patton, CEO of TN Oncology and a CPC member, testified on behalf of TOPS and ASCO, before the Senate Commerce & Labor Committee. Staff prepared a joint support letter from TOPS, ACCC, and ASCO. Staff participating in the coalition. The Senate Committee did not approve the bill and no further action will occur in 2016. |
| Smoke Free Work Place | Denali Oncology Group (**Alaska**) | The Society asked if ASCO would help support a bill to be introduced to require smoke free workplaces. Staff shared ASCO’s position statement on the issue and offered support. ASCO submitted a joint support letter for the bill from DOGs and ASCO. |