

RURAL ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE

OSMA SUPPORTS

OSMA is providing significant financial assistance to increase access to quality health care across our state. We have partnered with BlueCross/BlueShield of OK and others to place a general practitioner in Guymon, OK, a medically underserved area. We are currently partnering with TSET and PMTC to place a physician in another critically underserved area, Idabel, OK. Physicians not only provide access to quality health care, they also serve as an economic development engine for the communities they serve.

Why is this important? Incentives such as these are a great step toward attracting physicians to work in Oklahoma's rural areas. The OSMA is making this happen!

PILL LIMITS/OPIOID CRISIS

OSMA SUPPORTS

SB 848 clarifies pill limit language from last year. Attorney General Mike Hunter and the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs continue to work closely with OSMA on language addressing this issue.

Why is this important? Last year's "Pill Limit" bill, SB 1446, resulted in some unintended consequences. The measure was designed to address initial prescriptions dealing with acute pain and not affect a patient's needs associated with ongoing chronic pain.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

Health care is a TEAM effort. M.D.s and D.O.s receive the highest quality education/training and are the leaders of the health care team.

OSMA OPPOSES

SB 890 allows for the removal of physician supervision from CRNAs throughout Oklahoma and, in certain circumstances, would not require a physician to be on-site in case of an emergency. **OSMA is spearheading the effort to bring all interested parties together over the interim in an effort to address this issue.**

Why is this important? Patient safety. Health care is safest and most effective when there is a team approach with a well-trained physician on site, especially when anesthesia is in use.

ACCEPTING FEDERAL FUNDS

OSMA SUPPORTS

Federal tax dollars from Oklahoma are being reallocated to other states in support of their Medicaid delivery systems. By accepting the reinvestment of our own federal tax dollars, Oklahoma will increase funding to cover currently uninsured Oklahomans and provide support to rural hospitals.

PUBLIC HEALTH

OSMA SUPPORTS

Support anti-tobacco, anti-obesity, immunization maintenance, and other initiatives to improve Oklahoma public health.

Why is this important? The State Legislature must keep a focus on Oklahoma's public health. Seniors and school children are at a greatly enhanced risk of ailments that could easily be prevented through promoting a healthier lifestyle and securing proper immunizations to eliminate setbacks such as the nation's current measles outbreak.