



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



*Dr. David Taylor
President & Chairman*

Dear NJPCAC Member:

I need your help.

The New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition is only as strong as its members. Our strength lies not just in our numbers, but in our willingness to give a little of our time and effort for the greater good.

Since the Coalition was created, we have been phenomenally successful:

We have warded off efforts by

public policy makers to place new restrictions on our integrated care model;

We have developed relationships with the top Legislators in the state, including the Chairmen of the Health Committees and the Leadership on both sides of the political aisle in both the Assembly and Senate.

We have worked hard to provide our own hard data that prove definitively what we knew to be true all along: That the integrated care model serves patients efficiently.

There are always new threats, however, from regulators, public policy makers and insurers.

So I am asking you today to let us know how we can better grow and serve the Coalition. What can we do better? What information do you need to be a better informed Coalition member? Are you willing to give up a little of your time to meet with legislators at a fundraiser or

some other setting? Even better, do you already have a personal relationship with a legislator that you think might be beneficial?

Please reach out to me by email at dtaylor@gsunj.com and share your thoughts with me.

I look forward to hearing from you. In the meantime, please enjoy a safe and healthy holiday season in the weeks ahead.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Taylor
President & Chairman

The New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition (NJPCAC) promotes and represents the common interests of urological care physicians in the State of New Jersey who are dedicated to the highest standards of practice and focuses on addressing the challenges that confront our healthcare system. NJPCAC's membership includes nearly 200 practicing urologists and scores of additional healthcare professionals, including radiation oncologists, pathologists, nurses and administrative staff, who have come together to educate policy makers, regulators, insurers and other key stakeholders, including patients and peers about regulatory changes that will adversely affect the quality and accessibility to care provided to patients in New Jersey and those that will advance care in New Jersey. NJPCAC promotes and pursues educational, legislative and regulatory interests that are common to these urological care physicians and the advancement of patient care and access in the State of New Jersey.



Join Us at the Statehouse



On **Monday December 8th** (9am to 1pm) the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition will hold its Third Annual “State House Lobbying Day” in Trenton. Coalition members will greet legislators, staff and members of the Christie Administration to make them more familiar with the Coalition and our issues.

If you would like to join us, please reach out to our lobbyist Donald Sico at dsiconj@gmail.com.



Dr. David Taylor and Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean Jr. at the NJPCAC's 2013 State House Day, held on June 24, 2013

Ambulatory Care Facility Tax Update: We Have a Bill!

On Monday September 15th Senator Jeff Van Drew from Cape May County (District 1) introduced our Ambulatory Care Facility tax phase out legislation:

S2406 - Phases out ambulatory care facility assessment over five years.

The bill was referred to the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee chaired by Senator Joe Vitale. We are hopeful that the Committee will consider the bill at one of its upcoming sessions later this year or early next year.

This bill would phase out, over a five-year period, the assessment on ambulatory care facilities imposed in 2004 to fund charity care.

Currently, an ambulatory care facility with gross receipts over \$300,000 is required to pay an annual assessment equal to 2.95 percent of its gross receipts to the Department of Health (DOH), up to a maximum annual assessment of \$350,000.

The bill, if signed into law, would reduce the gross receipts assessment rate by providing for: an assessment rate of 2.84 percent in Fiscal Year (FY) 2015; an assessment rate of 2.13 percent in FY 2016; an assessment rate of 1.42 percent in FY 2017; an assessment rate of 0.71 percent in FY 2018; and elimination of the assessment in FY 2019.

A companion bill has not yet been introduced in the Assembly, but Majority Leader Lou Greenwald has indicated he will soon do so.

NJPCAC Meets with Key Legislators



Alan Plotkin with Senator Joe Vitale



At Left:

*Dr. Alan Krieger
at an event with
Assemblywoman
Angelica Jimenez*



*Dr. Herb Conaway, Chair of the Assembly
Health and Senior Services Committee
met with Dr. David Taylor*



*Left to right: Dr. David Taylor, Senate Republican
Leader Tom Kean, Jr. and Dr. Alan Krieger*

Hey NJPCAC Members, What Do You Say We Don't Shave Next November?



What do you think about not shaving next November?

It would be for a good cause that would bring some New Jersey attention to the cause of Prostate Cancer detection and prevention.

No-Shave November is a web-based, non-profit organization devoted to growing cancer awareness and supportive funds which go towards preventing the disease, saving lives, funding research, educating, and aiding those fighting the battle.

It was recently featured by Matt Lauer on NBC's Today Show and was brought to our attention by The Stone Center's Kelly Snyder.

No Shave November is the brainchild of Rebecca Hill and her friend, Bret Ringdahl, who in 2009 brainstormed ways that anyone - regardless of age, gender or income level - could raise money to fight cancer and have fun doing it. No Shave November was an obvious choice: nearly everyone spends some amount of his or her hard-earned money on grooming, whether that's shaving, waxing, trimming or threading. If just for November, those individuals gave that cost (ranging from a few dollars for razors to a \$100 salon visit) to a cancer charity instead. Friends and family alone could pool together a sizable chunk of change to help cancer patients and their families. Rebecca's father, Matthew, who was first diagnosed with cancer in 1996 and passed away in 2007, was an avid contributor to his community.

The New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition is considering a coalition-wide effort to support Prostate Cancer research, prevention and awareness next November. [You can learn more about the national effort here.](#)

Advocacy Update



By Donald Sico, Donald Sico & Co. LLC

The past three decades have taught me that “there is never a dull moment in Trenton,” but things are about to get even more interesting in the days, weeks and months ahead.

First, the elections in November have left three unusual vacancies in the Legislature:

Former Senator Donald Norcross was elected to Congress, replacing Congressman Rob Andrews who resigned last March. Because Norcross was also on the ballot to fill Congressman Andrew’s unexpired term, he has already been sworn into office as a member of the US House of Representatives and there is a vacancy for his Camden area State Senate seat.

Former Assembly Majority Leader and current Assemblywoman Bonnie Watson Coleman was elected to Congress as well, replacing Congressman Rush Holt, who chose not to run for reelection. The Assemblywoman will take office in January creating a vacancy for her Trenton area Assembly seat.

And finally, Assemblywoman Celeste Riley was elected Gloucester County Clerk and will take that post in January as well, creating the third vacancy.

Second, there appears to be little question that Governor Chris Christie will run for President. And, it appears equally clear that he will not resign as Governor to do so.

Third, the political world of Trenton is heating up as early jockeying for the big prize - the Governorship - takes place. Senate President Steve Sweeney is all but a declared candidate for Governor as is the Chairman of the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee, John Wisniewski; the Lt. Governor, Kim Guadagno; the Mayor of Jersey City, Steve Fulop; and, perhaps, either the Republican Senate Leader Tom Kean Jr. or the Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick.

Fourth, the Governor’s longtime Chief of Staff Kevin O’Dowd announced this month that he has accepted a new position with Cooper University Health System in Camden this January. He has already been replaced by the Governor’s Authority Unit Director, Regina Egea.

Lay on top of all that the almost inescapable need to increase the gasoline tax by 25 cents or more to fund the Transportation Trust Fund and an investigation into the GW Bridge scandal that seems to never want to end and you have an explosive and unpredictable political landscape “Under the Golden Dome” that is sure to make for interesting times.

Stay tuned!

Must Reads



L.A. Times - October 21, 2014

[Medical Costs Up to 20% Higher at Hospital-Owned Physician Groups, Study Finds](#)

Wall Street Journal (*Requires Subscription*) - October 22, 2014

[How Medicare 'Self-Referral' Thrives on Loophole](#)

NJ Spotlight - October 29, 2014

[Legislators Seek to Solve Problem of Excessive Out-of-Network Medical Bills](#)

Calling All New Jersey Urologists

We are always looking to expand the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition because we understand there is “strength in numbers.” If you know of a colleague who is not a member, please invite him or her to join and to take a look at our [webpage](http://www.njpcac.org) (www.njpcac.org) for additional information. There is also a membership application form on the webpage they can use to contact us if they want to join.

New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition

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