



November Newsletter

New Jersey Legislative Update

OUT OF NETWORK LEGISLATION Assembly Bill No. 3378

On November 8, 2010, Chairman Gary Schaer called his Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee into session to consider one bill – as the Chairman said – for the final time. Of course, that bill was the Chairman’s own out-of-network legislation, A-3378.

During the preceding weekend, physicians from the Coalition banded together in a comprehensive strategy to insert our amendments or defeat the bill in its present form. Every member of this Coalition deserves a lot of credit because we did what they say could not be done – we successfully participated in an effort that ensured the bill in its present form would not be voted on in the scheduled hearing.

Brian Litten appeared at the November 8

legislative hearing in Trenton on behalf of the Coalition. Litten was among the first of many to testify. While testimony was limited to 4 minutes per person, the questions directed to Litten by the Committee kept Litten before the Committee for more than 18 minutes, making NJPCAC’s testimony and impact the longest and strongest out of any party testifying during the 2.5 hour hearing.

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NJPCAC: MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Urology Group of New Jersey Hosts Community Prostate Cancer Awareness Forum and Survivor Celebration

(West Orange, NJ) – Nearly 40 people attended the Urology Group of New Jersey (UGNJ) first Prostate Cancer Awareness Forum and Survivor Celebration. The event, held at the Prostate Cancer Center of New Jersey, featured UGNJ physicians presenting an overview on detection of prostate cancer, a review of all treatment options, as well as a celebration lunch for prostate cancer survivors.

The event was a culmination a month-long prostate cancer awareness campaign to raise awareness of the prevalence of prostate cancer in men.

“Approximately 1 in 6 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer. Early detection and treatment is essential,” said UGNJ President Eric Seaman.

“These types of events help raise awareness throughout the northern New Jersey community and are a large part of UGNJ’s commitment to prevent prostate cancer. We were also extremely pleased to celebrate with our prostate cancer survivors.”



Dr. Eric Seaman, UGNJ President; Dr. Brett Opell and Dr. Alan Krieger taking questions from participants.

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Litten’s testimony, prepared in consultant with Coalition counsel, Howard Rubin, Esq., focused on the administrative burdens placed on physician’s offices by the onerous disclosure provisions of the bill (explained previously).

Many other groups testified, mostly against the bill.

Those testifying in support of the bill were the insurance brokers and the State

Chamber and New Jersey Business & Industry Association.

A local union representative also testified in favor of the bill.

At the end of the hearing, Chairman Schaar announced the bill would be held and would NOT be voted on by the Committee as everyone had thought. He said the bill still needs a lot of work and input from the Governor’s Office. At this point, the fate of bill is unknown, but it is shaky at best.

On Monday, November 8th, Senator Vitale introduced in the Senate a companion bill to Schaar's now uncertain OON legislation. Interestingly, the bill was referred to the Senate Commerce Committee, chaired by Nia Gill, and not the Health Committee, where Vitale will have less control over its future. We do not expect to see any action on this bill in either house for some time. Nonetheless, we need to stay vigilant in campaign to educate and inform legislators of our positions.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS FROM UGNJ’S SURVIVOR CELEBRATION



Dr. Seaman welcoming attendees.



Dr. Krieger providing an overview of prostate cancer.



Dr. Domenic Savatta reviewing surgical treatment options.

“Survivor Celebration” – Continued from Page 1...

UGNJ is a group practice of 27 urologists located in Essex, Hudson, Morris and Union counties offering patients a comprehensive range of services to provide the very best in urological care.

Each month, we will endeavor to feature a different Coalition member entity in this newsletter. This will allow other member entities across the State to know what their colleagues are doing to serve their communities and promote the highest quality of urologic care.

Questions, Comments, or Suggestions for Next Month’s Newsletter?

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