



December 2010 Newsletter

New Jersey Legislative Update

OUT OF NETWORK LEGISLATION ADVANCES

Assembly Bill No. 3378

The Out of Network (OON) legislation (A-3378) was heard before the Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee on December 9 for the third time. This version of the legislation reverted back to the

original bill. I attended the hearing on behalf of the NJPCAC and I formally submitted our opposition along with our written testimony highlighting our continued opposition to the bill. Notwithstanding our strong efforts and the efforts of many of our peers and colleagues, the bill passed the Committee by a unanimous vote, as I further detail below.

We know that the Committee convened by telephone the day before the hearing and agreed not to accept any oral testimony on the bill. This was a clear political sign that the bill would advance from Committee without issue.

Below is a brief summary of what happened in today's hearing:

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NJPCAC: MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

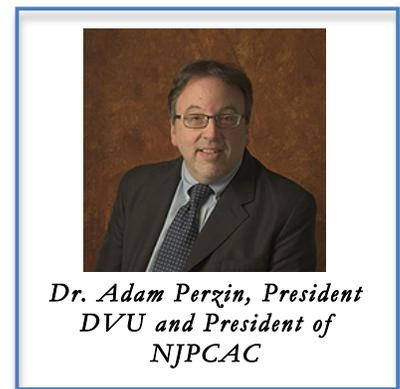


DELEWARE VALLEY UROLOGY

Delaware Valley Urology (DVU) is continuing the process of consolidating offices in order to provide a more integrated experience for its patients. DVU's new Mt. Laurel office is about

14,000 sq. feet and offers in office surgery, clinical research and all the other basics. Its Voorhees office (scheduled to open in March 2011) will be about 20,000 sq. feet and offer the same services.

Incidentally, it will be the only fully 'green' office building in the area. DVU has also made the decision to bring its robotic surgeons to the office that adjoins its radiation center so that patients are able to receive consultations for IMRT and Robotics on the same day - a scenario that is driven by DVU's desire to give patients the ability to get all of the information in a more time efficient manner for them.



*Dr. Adam Perzin, President
DVU and President of
NJPCAC*

"I think all these measures speak to the integrated care model and patients being given more choice and more information rather than what our detractors suggest," said DVU's President, Dr. Adam Perzin.

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At 10am on December 9, roll call was taken. All members were present.

A-3378 was the first bill heard by the Committee. The Chairman restated that only written testimony on the bill would be accepted as the bill had been heard in the Committee, in different iterations, three times.

Chairman Schaer then asked OLS to read the summary of the bill.

Chairman Schaer read the positions of those who submitted formal positions on the legislation:

- A.J. Sabbath – NJ Building and Construction Council: Support
- Laurie Price Abrams – Qualcare, Inc.: Support, with proposed modifications
- Thomas Buffato – The ARC of New Jersey: Support

- Kevin DeSimone – New Jersey Council of Teaching Hospitals: Oppose
- Troy Singleton – New Jersey Carpenters: Support
- John M. Leyman – Horizon BCBSNJ: Oppose
- **Brian J. Litten – New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition: Oppose**

Schaer asked if there are any questions from Committee. There were none.

Schaer then asked for a motion to adopt the Committee Substitute to A-3378, the support for which he unanimously received from the Committee.

Republican members applauded Schaer for the work he put into the bill (Coyle and Bateman, in particular). Coyle and Spencer noted that these are the important first steps in providing transparency in

health care to lower costs for all.

Schaer thanked his colleagues for their support through the difficult process. He said that the action taken today [December 9] is a hallmark. It is not a perfect bill, he said, but it's more than a small step forward. It is Schaer's intention over the next twelve months to review the bill and its applications and to provide refinements as necessary.

Schaer asked for a motion to release the substitute. The Committee unanimously agreed to release the bill.

You can listen to the full hearing at:

http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/media/live_audio.asp

We have a full strategy planned to fight this every step of the way.

Stay tuned for updates....

Reminder: Governor Signs S-515.

As a reminder, this new law: **Permits physicians and veterinarians to earn continuing education credits by providing certain free medical or veterinary services.**

A full copy of the new law can be found at the following link:

http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2010/Bills/S1000/515_R1a.HTM

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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