



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



*Dr. David Taylor
President & Chairman*

Dear NJPCAC Member:

As I near the end of my third year as President and Chairman of the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition (NJPCAC), I sometimes reflect on what this leadership position has meant to us as a collection of physicians across medical specialties who care for patients in our own integrated urology groups and who are united in a common purpose. More often, though, I think about what the leadership experience in NJPCAC has meant to me personally.

Yes, there have been harrowing trips on the NJ Turnpike and I-287 as I travel to places near and far to meet with legislators on the Coalition's behalf. There have been more than my fair share of attendance at fundraisers for Legislators and more "rubber chicken" than I care to remember. And yes, there have been numerous weekend conference calls to discuss strategy and assure the Coalition is moving in the right direction.

But more than anything, this role has given me the opportunity to forge new friendships that I very much hope will last beyond my service on the Coalition Board. And for that I am grateful. Were it not for my full and active participation in Coalition, I do not believe I would have ever had the chance to spend time with so many of you who I am now honored to consider "friends."

I know for certain that I would not have had the opportunity to forge a friendship with a fellow

physician who also happens to be a legislator and just happens to chair the Assembly Health Committee - Dr. Herb Conaway. In fact, my limited responsibilities as NJPCAC President and Chairman have given me a greater appreciation and admiration for all that Dr. Conaway does as a legislator, physician, father and advocate. I really have no idea how he juggles so many balls at once, but he does so successfully.

I look forward to seeing some of you in the months ahead. I am grateful for the opportunities you have given me by asking me serve as your Chairman.

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.



NJPCAC Board Elected at Annual Meeting in New Brunswick

Dr. David Taylor from Garden State Urology was reelected Chairman and President of the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition at the Annual Meeting on February 8th in New Brunswick. Dr. Alan Krieger from the Urology Group of New Jersey was reelected Vice-Chairman; Pat Ciccone from New Jersey Urology was reelected Treasurer; and Dr. Adam Perzin of Delaware Valley Urology was reelected Secretary. Kelly Snyder from The Stone Center of New Jersey was elected Assistant Treasurer by unanimous vote of the Board.

In addition to the election of officers, a full agenda included:

- A review of 2013's Advocacy and a Strategic Advocacy Plan for 2014
Howard Rubin, Katten Muchin Rosenman and Donald Sico, President and CEO, Donald Sico & Co LLC
- An update on the "Defense of Integrated Cancer Care" – National and State Update – Rubin and Dr. Taylor
- A review of 2012-2013 NJPCA PAC expenditures and adoption of NJPCA PAC Recommendations for 2014
- Adoption of the 2014 NJPCAC Budget and Dues Structure



Effort Underway to Repeal ACF Tax

An effort is underway to repeal the "Ambulatory Care Facility" assessment or ACF tax in New Jersey. The New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition (NJPCAC) has joined with the Medical Society of New Jersey (MSNJ) and other affected groups to phase out this tax that many say will soon outlive its usefulness which was to help fund Charity Care.

As reflected in the recently passed Fiscal Year 2015 budget, Charity Care payments by the state are declining as a result of the expansion of coverage, particularly under Medicaid, made possible by the Federal Affordable Care Act. FY 2015 Charity Care payments were \$25M less than FY 2014 and are expected to continue to decline in the future.

NJPCAC has participated through its lobbyist, Donald Sico, in meetings with key legislators to lay the groundwork for a phase-out of the ACF assessment. Thus far, support for repeal has been strong.

The concept has been met with near universal support from the many legislators NJPCAC has met with over the past several months.

While legislation to repeal has not yet been introduced, a draft has been prepared by the Office of Legislative Services and Majority Leader Lou Greenwald has agreed to sponsor the bill and will have a Republican cosponsor, most likely Assemblyman Declan O'Scanlon. In the Senate, the bill is likely to be sponsored by Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee Chairman Paul Sarlo and cosponsored by Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean, Jr.

The legislation is simple and straight forward and phases out the assessment over five years, ending in the state's Fiscal Year 2019, which starts on July 1, 2018.

We are hopeful that the bill will be introduced in the the upcoming weeks when the Legislature returns in the fall.

While MSNJ and NJPCAC and others were hopeful of seeing movement on the bill in the spring, an unexpected \$800M budget shortfall created a less than ideal environment for reducing revenue by cutting taxes. It is expected that the bill will be introduced in the fall and will be considered in Committee soon thereafter.

NJPCAC will keep members apprised of this important legislative issue.





Advocacy Update

By Donald Sico, Donald Sico & Co. LLC

If a quarter-century of involvement in New Jersey politics (I started in 1989 as press secretary to gubernatorial candidate Jim Courter) has taught me anything, it is that there is never an “off season” when it comes to the pursuit of the governorship in the Garden State. It is a full-time contact sport.

And so while many of you will recall that we **just** had an election for governor last November when the voters returned incumbent Chris Christie to the State House by a wide margin, many others were already plotting at **that** time and preparing for the NEXT gubernatorial election in 2017. And that may have been a wise decision because there is increasing speculation that Governor Christie will give up his governorship to run for President resulting in an election for Governor which could very well occur as soon as next November - 2015.

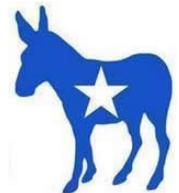
This speculation is not without merit. Governor Christie, despite the state’s lagging economy and the George Washington Bridge scandal, continues to lead a relatively weak national Republican field of candidates in many of the polls. (By the way, if you have a keen interest in politics, a very good website to keep track of polls and the most recent political activity is www.realclearpolitics.com). The GOP nomination - at least at this date and barring any unforeseen circumstances such as an indictment by federal prosecutors - appears to be within Governor Christie’s reach.

The key date to remember is September 4, 2015. Why? Because according to New Jersey law, if the governor leaves offices more than two months before the next scheduled general election, there needs to be a special election for governor on that date. But if Governor Christie waits until after September 4th, it pushes the special election for New Jersey governor back to November 2016.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that Governor Christie has one eye on the State House and the other on the White House and so it is not too early to begin looking at who might replace him.

Democrats

Two prospective candidates have already moved to the front of the pack: Senate President Steve Sweeney and Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop.



Senate President Sweeney has been a good friend to the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition and has been supportive of our efforts in Trenton, posting for votes (and supporting with his own vote) our efforts to amend the Codey Act to allow for new lithotripsy ownership and to put New Jersey on record as the first and only state in the nation to oppose the USPSTF recommendation on PSA screens. The Senate President has toured the Delaware Valley Urology Cancer Center in Cherry Hill. Senator Sweeney, from Gloucester County where he served as Freeholder Director, has a brother who is a physician and lost another brother to cancer at the age of 43. The Senate President is a Vice President for the International Association of Ironworkers.

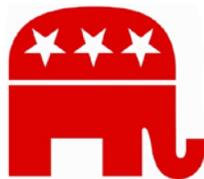
Jersey City Mayor Steve Fulop is a relative newcomer to the New Jersey political scene and at 37 years of age, a young one at that. Fulop took office as Mayor of Jersey City on July 1st of last year. His first

elective office was a successful 2005 run for Jersey City Council. After starting a career at Goldman Sachs in Chicago, he transferred back to New Jersey and bought a home in Jersey City. When he witnessed the devastating attacks of September 11, 2001, Mayor Fulop decided to leave his job at Goldman Sachs and enlist in the United States Marine Corps.

Others who may be considering running for Governor and seeking the Democratic nomination are former State Party Chair and current co-chair of the joint legislative committee investigating the GW Bridge scandal, **Assemblyman John Wisniewski**; **Phillip Murphy**, a former US Ambassador to Germany and someone who could fund his own campaign, similar to former Governor Jon Corzine; and labor leader **Milly Silva**, the running mate of defeated gubernatorial candidate Barbara Buono.

Republicans

There are several Republicans who are considering succeeding Governor Christie: Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno, Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean, Jr. and Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick.



The Lt. Governor has been a loyal number two to Governor Christie, but it is not a given that she will have Christie's support should he step aside early. She would have the clear advantage of - at least for a short period of time - serving as Governor were Christie to resign. **Kim Guadagno** was elected New

Jersey's first Lieutenant Governor in November 2009. In addition to serving as the Lt. Governor, Kim Guadagno serves as Secretary of State. A former Federal prosecutor with the Organized Crime & Racketeering Strike Force in Brooklyn, Guadagno moved to New Jersey and became an Assistant United States Attorney in Newark. In 2007, Kim Guadagno was elected sheriff in Monmouth County.

Like Senate President Sweeney, **Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean, Jr.**

has been a good friend to the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition and visited the Urology Group of New Jersey's Prostate Cancer Center in West Orange in 2012 and has met with us annually thereafter. The



Republican Senate Leader has been supportive of all of our issues. The grandson of former U.S. Representative Robert Winthrop Kean and son of former Governor Thomas H. Kean, Sr., the Westfield resident is continuing a legacy of public service.



Yet another strong supporter of the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition, **Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick** has met with members of the Coalition on numerous occasions and has always been

supportive of NJPCAC issues. Also a Westfield resident, Bramnick is serving his fifth term. A trial lawyer, Bramnick holds the title "Funniest Lawyer in New Jersey" after winning contests sponsored by the bar association at Rascals Comedy Club.

State Senator Joseph Kyrillos, the unsuccessful Republican candidate for the US Senate against Senator Bob Menendez, may also seek the nomination.

Must Reads



Bloomberg Businessweek - Politics & Policy - July 24, 2014

[“When Hospitals Buy Clinics, Prices Go Up”](#)

MD News - June 24, 2014 **[“Fuel for Debate: Study Raises New Questions about PSA Screening Recommendation”](#)**

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). Click [here](#) for more information or a membership application.

New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition

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