

July 2011

Certification Corner

Q: What is the status of legislative activities in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Colorado, Virginia, Oregon, Arizona, Washington, and Ohio?

A: In Pennsylvania, we have a House sponsor for our legislation. I have edited three or four drafts of the legislation, with the most recent draft edited July 11, 2011. We are hopeful that the bill will be introduced very soon. Pennsylvania's legislative session runs from January 2011 through December 31, 2012, so we have a lot of time to get the bill passed.

In Maryland, our members have been working to gather data from hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers on the number of Central Sterile Supply Department technicians that are certified in these facilities. Also, they contacted an Emergency Department physician who serves on the House Health and Government Operations Committee. He provided us with some terrific advice on how to move forward -- and also informed us of other legislators to contact about the legislation. Additionally, we will be reaching out to the state hospital association.

In Colorado, I have reached out to a state senator to begin discussions of introducing certification legislation for 2012. Colorado's legislative session runs from January to May every year. The summer and fall are the best time to discuss legislation for the next session with legislators.

In Virginia, Sharon Greene-Golden, IAHCSSM President-Elect, is setting up meetings with a state senator and representative on the certification issue. Her initial contact with these two elected officials has been very positive and she is providing them with all of our material on the issue.

In Oregon, our members had a meeting with a state representative on the certification issue. Unfortunately, the meeting did not go very well. This particular representative believed the issue was best left to the hospitals to determine if they wanted their personnel to be certified. We reached out to the Co-Chairs of the House Health Care Committee and we have meetings set up to discuss the issue with them.

In Arizona, our members have begun collecting data from hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers to determine the number of CSSD technicians certified in these facilities. They sent letters to the House and Senate Health Committee Chairs asking for a meeting to discuss the certification legislation. We are awaiting a response.

In Washington, our members reached out to their elected officials and we were told to contact the House and Senate Chairs of the Health Care Committees. We asked the Chairs to provide us with a letter that requests a sunrise review by the Department of Health to determine whether certification would serve the public interest. We are awaiting a response from the Chairs.



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CENTRAL SOURCE

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Last, but not least, we have a House and Senate sponsor for our certification legislation in Ohio and are waiting for the bill to be introduced. The Ohio legislature runs from January 2011 to December 31, 2012.

Q: Have there been any changes with the members of the National Government Affairs Committee?

A: Yes, Harvey Johnson, who had represented the committee's western region, was recently appointed to the Nominating Committee; therefore, he resigned his position on the National Government Affairs Committee. We appreciate Harvey's service on our committee and wish him well on the Nominating Committee.

Our new western regional representative is Don Williams of Oregon. He also serves as President-Elect of the Cascade Chapter of IAHCSSM.

**To locate your regional representative on the National Government Affairs Committee go to
http://www.iahcsmm.org/MemberServices/committees.html#pab1_1**