

1 self-administered hormonal birth control in the form of pills, patches, and rings. There are many
2 safeguards in the legislation including patient screening tools, pharmacist training, referrals to the
3 primary care provider, and further rulemaking with input from medical experts. Also, prescription
4 duration is limited to six months and patients must see their provider within 12 months. Dr Teresa
5 Lovins testified in the Senate Committee, and I testified in the House Committee in strong support.

6
7 SB 275 adds to the list of specialty designations that should be reserved for physicians such as
8 “pulmonologist”, “allergist”, and “neonatologist”. Unfortunately, the badging requirement that would
9 have included license type such as physician, nurse, or physician assistant was amended out of the
10 bill. Patients continue to be confused about who exactly provided their care in the clinical encounter.
11 Clear disclosure of the type of health professional needs further clarity and transparency. I testified in
12 support of the bill in the House Health Committee but expressed concern for the exclusion of the
13 badging requirement. The issue of badging will undoubtedly be pursued again sometime in the future.

14
15 There were a number of unsuccessful bills that would have enabled advanced practice registered
16 nurses (nurse practitioners) with prescriptive authority to practice independently without a physician
17 collaboration agreement. These were strongly opposed by the physician community, clearly based on
18 quality-of-care concerns. Nurse practitioners are valuable health-care professionals, but they are not
19 physicians and should be part of a physician-led team. Chairman Barrett of the House Public Health
20 Committee and other physician legislators of both political parties were invaluable in blocking these
21 bills. Also, physician assistant scope-of-practice bills were not heard in committee and did not
22 advance.

23
24 SB 480 was a contentious bill that prohibits gender transition care for minors either by medication or
25 surgery - even with parental consent. National medical organizations firmly support this medical care
26 that is shown to preserve emotional well-being and prevents suicides. Shouldn't these decisions be
27 better left to families and physicians without interference? Cole Speer testified against the bill on the
28 basis of interference with the doctor-patient relationship/decision making and interference in the
29 practice of medicine. We did not enter the debate on the merits of the prohibition as the IAFP does not
30 have clear policy on the issue. From discussions with a couple of IAFP members during the session, I
31 anticipate there will be one or more resolutions for the IAFP Congress to consider on this issue. The
32 IAFP needs clear policy on gender transition care.

33
34 Only one of 13 marijuana bills received a hearing. A bill solely on decriminalization was heard in
35 committee without a vote. This was historic as this was the first time marijuana was debated at the
36 Indiana Legislature. Undoubtedly, more to come. I testified in favor of decriminalization per IAFP/AAFP
37 policy.

38
39 Overall, this was a good session for health care.

40
41 Our legislative commission met twice during the session to set priorities and define specific positions
42 on bills that we were following. We worked closely and effectively on issues with other organizations
43 and coordinated with the ISMA.

44
45 I was once again privileged to serve on the Legislature's Public Health Interim Study Committee. This
46 was my second year of my current two-year appointment and I hope to be reappointed.

47
48 Finally, I want to thank our legislative team, Cole Speer, Missy Lewis Deeter, and our lobbyist
49 consultants Kelli and Grant Waggoner for their work this year on our behalf. Also, I want to thank the
50 Commission on Legislation for their time and advice, especially for helping guide our policy decisions.

51
52 And finally, thanks to those who volunteered to serve as Physician of the Day at the legislature!

