2017 Legislative Priorities

Doctorate of Medical Science

OPPOSE: SB1327 (Carrico)

- In 2012, the physician community and mid-level practitioners agreed upon a new model for care that was a team-based and led by a physician. This model is collaborative and we continue to believe, provides the best patient care while allowing everyone to practice to the fullest extent of their education and training.
- This brand-new degree is untested and not yet accredited. The first class just started in the Fall of 2016 and we believe it is far too early for Virginia to grant a new license for such a nascent profession.

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome

SUPPORT: HB1467 (Greason)/SB1323 (Carrico); HB2182 (Pillion)

- An often-unknown part of the opioid crisis are the babies who are born to substance addicted mothers. We know the numbers are growing and see many, many more in our NICU’s and our pediatric offices daily.
- However, we also know that we need more data and more study to know how big the problem is and then, how best we can tackle it.
- Two bills this year will require the VA Dept. of Health to start tracking NASW as part of their reportable disease database; another will create a workgroup to study barriers to treatment of substance-exposed infants in the Commonwealth.

Supporting Mothers Who Breastfeed

SUPPORT: HB 2210 (Yancey)

- Support legislation that makes it easier for mothers to follow the AAP recommendations that babies breastfeed for at least a year, with only mother's milk for the first six months.
- However, in Virginia, only one-quarter of women are able to reach those goals despite over 80 percent citing breastfeeding as their plan at birth. We strongly support removing barriers to help more women breastfeed their babies for longer.
- This bill would require employers to provide reasonable unpaid break time each day to express breast milk for one year after the child’s birth and make reasonable efforts to provide a room or other location in close proximity to the work area, other than a toilet stall, where such an employee can express breast milk in privacy.

Food Safety

Oppose HB2030 (Freitas)/HB2368 (Morris)

- Oppose legislation that allows people to buy farm-produced food directly from farms- without any inspections, regulations, etc- specifically the sale of raw milk and raw milk products.
- This recommendation is based on the multiplicity of data regarding the burden of illness associated with consumption of raw and unpasteurized milk and milk products, especially among pregnant women, fetuses and newborn infants, and infants and young children, as well as the strong scientific evidence that pasteurization does not alter the nutritional value of milk.
- The benefits of the alleged natural factors in raw milk have not been clearly demonstrated in evidence-based studies and, therefore, do not outweigh the risks of raw milk consumption.

Miscellaneous

SUPPORT HB1757 (Dudenhefer): This bill would require at least one school nurse in every elementary, middle and high school in a school division.

SUPPORT HB 2209 (O’Bannon): This bill would create an ED Care Coordination Program that will utilize a proven software program to be used by hospitals and in primary care physicians’ offices, to identify complex, high-utilizing Medicaid patients based on data analytics and notify primary care providers in real-time as to their patients’ presence in the ED, all to better coordinate patients’ care.