

Key Legislative Contact “Buddy System”

Did you know that out of the multitude of bills and joint resolutions introduced each Legislative session, less than five percent get enacted into law?

The need for grassroots advocacy involvement cannot be overstated. Legislators depend on their constituents—the voters in their state or district—to let them know how policy affects their local community. Through constituent letters, phone calls, and face-to-face meetings, legislators learn what’s important to the people back home and why they should pay attention to certain issues. They rely heavily on the expressed views of their constituents and information provided by experts such as you.

Addressing these concerns is what got them elected and will help get them re-elected.

For this reason, it is important for all FPMA members to be involved in grassroots advocacy – but especially those members **like you who have received the moniker of “FPMA Key Legislative Contact”**. Perhaps FPMA has called on you before to assist us with providing compelling testimony at a Legislative Committee hearing; maybe we’ve asked you to deliver a Florida PAC check to your elected official; you could have been instrumental in coordinating your elected representative attending a component meeting to discuss issues with their constituents.

FPMA wishes to thank our existing Key Legislative Contacts for your dedication and participation. Your efforts were instrumental in the successful passage of FPMA 2021 legislation. Now we are ready to take it to the next level, with your assistance.

FPMA would like to institute a Key Legislative Contact “Buddy System”. When you are next called upon to engage with elected officials, FPMA asks that you contact a fellow podiatric physician and ask that they come along to shadow you. Through this process, we hope to essentially expand and double the existing number of Key Legislative Contacts as those new to the process learn how to engage best practices during the meeting and the value of follow-up.

No matter how involved you are as an individual, greater influence and impact are gained when large numbers of constituents speak with one voice to push their elected officials.

Together, we can and will make a difference in protecting and enhancing podiatric medicine.

Resources:

A Podiatrist’s Guide to Grassroots Advocacy (Video How To Engage with Elected Officials)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1DjMfyNniI&t=7s>

APMA State Advocacy Tools and Resources
<https://www.apma.org/Advocacy/content.cfm?ItemNumber=1948&navItemNumber=23963>

Diabetes by the Numbers: Florida
https://apma.cms-plus.com/files/FileDownloads/DiabetesbytheNumbers_Florida_2018.pdf