



California Orthopaedic Association

1246 P Street Sacramento, CA 95814
Email: admin@coa.org web: www.coa.org
Ph: 916-454-9884 Fax: 916-454-9882

Your "Orthopaedic" Voice in Sacramento

It's Time to Pay Your 2020 Dues!

What Happened in Sacramento in 2019?

COA Legislative Wins

The California Orthopaedic Association is the respected, trusted voice of Orthopaedic Surgeons in Sacramento. On your behalf we, lobby the Governor, Legislators, Administrative Departments, and staffers.

We had a busy, successful year. Some notable wins include:

- We sponsored legislation and continue to work with the Radiology Health Branch to streamline the permitting process to be certified to perform fluoroscopy and to obtain the radiography supervisor's certification in California. (AB 407)
- We stopped a bill to require, every time you write a prescription for opioid painkillers, to also refer the patient for alternative pain relief, like yoga or meditation, even if you believe the opioid to be the best treatment option. (AB 888)
- Physician exemption from the new independent contractor test, so our members who work under contract with hospitals can continue to do so. (AB 5)
- We stopped a bill that would have limited to \$25 the amount a physician could charge for filling out medical forms, including complicated forms for state disability insurance. (AB 370)
- We stopped a bill which would have required every physician to write the purpose or condition requiring the prescription on the actual prescription form. (AB 387)
- We stopped a bill which would have allowed the Medical Board of California to increase your licensure fees every year by the consumer price index, without any showing/justification that they needed the additional money. (AB 613)
- We supported legislation, that became law, to require insurers to cover telehealth just as they would an in-person appointment. (AB 744)
- We amended a bill that would have required all physicians to take continuing medical education on maternal mental health to instead allow the training. (AB 845)
- We joined with Kaiser Permanente to oppose a bill that would have required public disclosure of Kaiser Permanente physician retirement benefits. (AB 1404)
- We supported a bill to increase vaccination rates by making it harder for children to receive medical exemptions from vaccinations. (SB 276)

(Continued on Reverse)

- We worked to amend a bill that would have set a precedent for lower Workers' Compensation reimbursement rates – Medicare rates. (SB 537)
- Along with the rest of the medical community, we supported a bill to allow you to be more flexible in your contracts with physician assistants, and to allow you more flexibility when you supervise Physician Assistants (PAs). (SB 697)
- We stopped, for this year, a bill that would have limited physician's ability to take into consideration all factors when performing disability evaluations by prohibiting the consideration of genetic factors (like race and sex) when apportioning in disability evaluations. (SB 731)
- We are working to update the Workers' Compensation Medical-Legal Fee Schedule. The Fee Schedule has not been updated in 13 years. COA is supporting a more streamline system, increased reimbursement rates, and an automatic cost-of-living increase.
- We support federal legislation to eliminate surprise billings for patients. (HR 3630)

2020 Threat

Despite our successes, we face additional threats in 2020, the largest of which is an initiative to make changes to MICRA – the law that has kept medical malpractice premium rates in California lower than any other state. Under the initiative, the \$250,000 cap on non-economic damages would immediately increase to over \$1 million and continue to increase annually based on cost-of-living increases. The initiative will also expand the definition of would could be compensated as non-economic damages. Every doctor will pay higher medical malpractice premiums as a result, with no increase in patient safety. Additionally, the current limitation on attorney's fees in medical malpractice cases would be lifted, so lawyers would get more, and patients would get less.

It's time to pay your 2020 dues.

COA needs your support to continue to represent orthopaedists. Attached is your dues statement. Please renew your COA membership or join for the first time.

To Pay Your Dues On-Line: <https://coa.org/members/>

To Join COA: <https://coa.org/members/join-coa/>