

ACS Chapter Advocacy

- Heather G. Bennett, JD

Executive Director

NY Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, Inc.

100 State Street, Suite 700

Albany, NY

(518) 433-0397 – tel

(518) 432-7498 – fax

bennett@bennettfirm.com

Background

Legal Status: NY Chapter

Type of Chapter: IRS 501(c)(6)

State Lobby Laws:

NY Temporary State Comm. on Lobbying
Reporting Schedule

New York State Legislature



Scope of Issues

- Number of Assembly Bills Introduced as of 6/1/05: 8,561
- Number of Senate Bills Introduced as of 6/1/05: 5,527
- Total: 14,088



Research Tools



- Legislative Retrieval Service –
Electronic Tracking System
- Coalition Building:
 - State Medical Society
 - Specialty Societies with
Common Interests: ObGyn's,
Orthos, Anesthesiologists,
Emergency Physicians,
Ophthalmologists, etc...

Identify Competition



- Proposal Title:

- 10-Point Healthcare Financing Reform Plan**

- Released February 9, 1005

- Tax Rate to be Applied: 8.85%

Competition's Motivation

- Historical Context
- Draw in Additional Interested Allies
 - Payors
 - Business Council

Issue 1: Defeat of Proposal to Tax Services at Ambulatory Surgery Centers

- NY Budget Deficit
- Coalition of Organizations Proposed Taxing ACS's: Greater NY Hospital Association and SEIU1199
- Projected tax rate: 8.85%

Opposition Step 1

- Identify Goal:
Governor Rejection
of Proposed Tax



Member Advocacy

- Fellows of the ACS
 - Contact Council (key contact list)
 - Member Alert
 - Surgery State Legislative Action Center (SLAC)
- Information on issue from ACS

SSLAC

Surgery State Legislative Action Center



 Enter the Surgery State Legislative Action Center

SSLAC Issue Letter

RE:Oppose New Tax on Ambulatory Surgery Centers

Dear _____:

I am a surgeon in your district and I wanted to take this opportunity to urge you to oppose the creation of a new tax in New York State on Ambulatory Surgery Centers. The 2005-2006 New York State Budget must NOT include a new tax on ambulatory surgery centers as proposed by the Greater New York Hospital Association and 1199/SEIU. Therefore, I urge you to reject calls to increase the cost of healthcare for New York's patients and to remain steadfast in your pursuit of.....

Opposition Step 2: Coalition Building

- State Medical Society
- Specialty Societies with an Interest in ACS
 - Orthopaedic Surgeons
 - Ophthalmologists
- Coordinate Contacts
- Coordinate Message

Divide and Conquer

Opposition Step 3: Formal Lobbying

- Chair of Budget SubCommittee
- Impact of State Lobby Day on Issue
- Paper the Issue
- Feedback – Follow-up



Results

- Proposal was Rejected by the NY Senate (Therefore not incorporated into a Budget Resolution.)
- Assembly amended proposal to just include tax on cosmetic procedures... but this was ultimately rejected by the Senate.

**Therefore Proposal Never Made
it the Governor Pataki's Desk**

Issue Defeated... for now...

Other issues NY Chapter of the ACS is working on this session:

- Repeal of Alcohol Exclusion Law Under NY No-Fault System
- NY State Trauma System and Registry
- Surgeon Access to Bariatric Surgery Medical Malpractice Insurance
- Containment of Dental Scope of Practice for Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery
- Medical Liability Insurance Crisis

● *Thank You..*