

# American College of Surgeons Chapter Advocacy Grant Program

## 2016 “Day at the State Capitol” Post-Event Report

CHAPTER(S): Alaska Chapter of ACS – January 27, 2016

PRIMARY CONTACT: Danny Robinette MD FACS

TELEPHONE: 907-451-6142 or cell 907-978-0639

EMAIL: drrobinette@gmail.com

**For the questions below, please type the appropriate number for each question:**

		Excellent (5)	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)
1.	Overall, how would you rate this lobby day?	5				
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
2.	Surgeon attendance met expectations		4			
3.	Speakers provided relevant briefing information to lobby day participants	5				
4.	Lobby day format enhanced the grassroots advocacy experience for the chapter	5				
5.	Chapter leadership was well-represented at the lobby day		4			
6.	Funding was sufficient to sponsor the lobby day	5				
7.	ACS resources/staff provided valuable information and assistance to the lobby day	5				

### Goals/Objectives of the Lobby Day:

With the current state budget crisis (3.5 Billion deficit), previous trauma funding is unlikely to be appropriated. We are seeking to get Medicaid and commercial insurers to be required by State law or regulatory agencies to reimburse certified trauma centers for trauma team activation. This would require minimal funds from the state to at least provide this level of support for trauma care.

### Issues Discussed With Legislators/Elected Officials:

We reviewed previous highly successful legislation that provided funding to certified trauma centers. Prior to the Trauma Fund Act of 2010, only 5 of 24 acute care hospitals were certified trauma centers. Since its passage, a total cost of 5 million dollars from the State over 5 years resulted in 16 of 24 acute care hospitals becoming certified trauma centers. While that legislation remains in place, the funds are unlikely to get appropriated given the current fiscal crisis in Alaska. Some hospitals, especially the

critical access small remote facilities need at least some support if they are to continue this certification. There is clear evidence that this system has been successful at reducing the number of unnecessary medical evacuations within the state, in particular great success at preventing patients from being flown to one hospital and then (due to issues with level of care) requiring a second flight to another facility with higher capability. This data was reviewed with legislators. Our proposal will require some state payments through Medicaid (with Federal matching) as well as funding from commercial payors. It is a good deal for the state. I am attaching a copy of our leave behind document.

**Describe Overall Event** (who attended/how many, structure/format of the event, noted speakers, how event may have differed from previous years, co-sponsors, etc):

This was our first Advocacy day. The chapter President (Danny Robinette), Frank Sacco (chapter member and longstanding trauma advocate), Thomas Knowlmayer (AK COT representative) attended along with support from Mark Johnson ( a retired director of DHSS for the State of Alaska and longtime trauma advocate). I am attaching a copy of our schedule to demonstrate the number of visits that occurred throughout the day. There was also an unscheduled visit to the Governor's chief of staff as well. We started the day reviewing our schedule, talking points, and overall strategy over breakfast. We moved to visits every 30 minutes from 9am until 4:30pm. We did have 30 minutes for lunch. For the most part we met with legislators directly along with their aides. At the end of the day, we had a critique of the event over dinner to confirm issues and follow up required.

**Highlights/Special Items that Stood Out:**

The general feeling is that we may well be able to accomplish our goal through regulatory rather than legislative avenues. The Governor's office arranged a visit with the head of DHSS in Anchorage to address this possibility. Frank and Tom hope to make that visit. We all felt we got a great deal of attention and believe this was a great success for a first attempt.

**How Grant and Matching Funds Were Spent:**

Transportation	<u>1082.72</u>
Food/Beverage	190.56
Lodging	<u>166.88</u>
Audio/Visual	_____
Event Publicity	_____
Meeting Materials	<u>59.84</u>
Sponsorship/Contribution	_____
Other	_____
Total	1500__

**Other Thoughts/Comments:**

For future events, we need to plan ahead a bit more to encourage even better participation. Three chapter members currently represents 10% of the chapter so not a bad start. We have a follow through plan to keep this issue moving forward.