

## Legislative Report

### Richard Bridges, MD, FAAFP – Chairman, Legislative and Advocacy Committee

On June 3 at 6 PM, the Louisiana Legislature constitutionally adjourned Sine Die, ending the 2024 Regular Legislative Session! Our legislative committee met before and during the session to set priorities and define specific positions on bills that we were following. We worked effectively on issues with other organizations, both healthcare and non-healthcare, and communicated with the Louisiana State Medical Society, LA Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and Medicine Louisiana on several bills. The committee met on several occasions and asked for opinions and guidance by email when needed when emergent issues arose.

A huge thank you to the many physicians who joined us at the Capitol to testify for and against legislation. While there, they often served as volunteers for the First Aid Station, too! We hope to have many of you join us again and encourage those of you with an interest to reach out for opportunities that help you stay involved. As this session comes to a close, it's not too early to start looking at legislation for next year. If you have suggestions you would like to have considered, please submit those ideas to Ragan LeBlanc at [rleblanc@lafp.org](mailto:rleblanc@lafp.org).

#### Physicians Coalition of Louisiana

Thank you to our 2024 partners:

- Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians
- Louisiana State Medical Society
- LA Chapter – American Academy of Cardiology
- LA Chapter -American Academy of Pediatrics
- LA Chapter - American College of Emergency Physicians
- Louisiana Eye Physicians and Surgeons
- Louisiana Orthopaedic Association
- Louisiana Osteopathic Medical Association
- Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM)
- Louisiana Psychiatric Medical Association
- Louisiana Society of Anesthesiologist
- Louisiana Society of Interventional Pain Physicians
- Medicine Louisiana
- Radiological Society of Louisiana

#### Legislative Reception

On the evening of Tuesday, April 9 the LAFP in partnership with the Physician Coalition of Louisiana hosted a very successful legislative reception at the City Club in Baton Rouge for physician leaders and legislators. A special thanks to **Mark Abraham, Roy Daryl Adams, Franklin Foil, Caleb Kleinpeter, Jeremy Lacombe, Wayne McMahan, Robert “Bob” Owens, and Thomas Pressly, IV** for taking the time to meet with our members.

#### Individual Involvement – Family Physician of the Day

I want to express my gratitude to the members of the legislative committee for their time, advice, and expertise. It was a very active and involved group this year. Thanks also to those LAFP members who volunteered time as Family Physician of the Day, which had the highest number of member participants in our tenure at that facility. There is no way to overstate the value this program brings to our Academy, and to the House of Medicine in general, in terms of our profile, our reputation, and our mission. The time those members give when leaving their practices, on behalf to our colleagues and our profession, is precious and is appreciated as such. Legislators and Capitol staff continue to provide feedback on how much they appreciate our presence through the Family Physician of the Day program.

LAFP also extends warm thanks and appreciation to our nursing staff at the Capitol, Elaine Lebas, RN and Lee Ann Albert, RN, who are there every day whether or not a doctor comes in.

# Legislative and Advocacy Committee Report, continued

---

General Assembly – July 26, 2024 – Destin, FL

---

## **Your LAFP Legislative Affairs Committee**

The following LAFP members serve on the Legislative and Advocacy Committee:

Richard Bridges, MD - Chair  
Pheobe Askie, MD  
Jule Griebrok-Assercq, MD  
Lauren Bartholomew, MD  
Houston Bonnyman, MD  
Roxanne Boyd, MD Kenneth  
Brown, MD  
Eldridge G. Burns, MD  
James Campbell, MD  
Lisa Casey, MD  
Lacey Cavanaugh, MD  
Mark Dawson, MD  
Phillip Ehlers, MD

Chris Foret, MD  
Wayne Gravois, MD  
Emily Holt, DO  
Ammar Husan, MD  
Michael Jennings, MD  
Prabhdeep Khunkhun, MD  
Alan LeBato, MD  
Lindsay Liles, MD  
Jayesh Madrecha, MD  
Cynthia Brown-Manning, MD  
Edith Chimezie Mbagwu, MD  
Joseph Nida, MD  
Dorian Joye O’Sullivan, MD

Bryan Picou, MD  
Marguerite Picou, MD  
Christina Pitre, DO  
M. Tahir Qayyum, MD  
Jason Schrock, MD  
Nicholas Seeliger, MD  
Shweta Sharan, MD  
Zeb Stearns, MD  
Deidre Stelly, MD  
James A. Taylor, Jr., MD  
Christopher Van Hise, MD

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Richard Bridges, MD, FAAFP**

**2023-2024 Legislative and Advocacy Committee Chair**