

PENNSYLVANIA ORTHOPAEDIC SOCIETY

PRESIDENT

Jon B. Tucker MD
The Orthopedic Group
1145 Bower Hill Rd., 3rd Fl
Pittsburgh, PA 15243
412/276-7022

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Gerald R. Williams, Jr.
The Rothman Institute
925 Chestnut St.
Philadelphia, PA 19107
267/339-7899

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Wayne J. Sebastianelli, MD
Penn State Ortho & Sports Med.
1850 East Park Ave., Ste 112
State College, PA 16803-6706
814/865-3593



500 North Third Street, 11th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1111
717/909-8901 or 888/772-7900
FAX 717/909-8906
info@paorthosociety.org
www.paorthosociety.org

Beth Weachter
Executive Director

SECRETARY

Michael J. Gratch, MD
Orthopaedic Specialty Center
2400 Maryland Road, Suite 20
Willow Grove, PA 19090-1711
215/830-8700

TREASURER

Gregory G. Gallant, MD
Orthopaedic Specialty Center
2400 Maryland Road, Suite 20
Willow Grove, PA 19090-1711
215/830-8700

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Michael P. Casey, MD
Greater Pittsburgh Orthopaedic Assoc.
5820 Centre Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206-3710
412/661-5500

March 17, 2008

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society (POS), I thank you for your work toward renewing the Mcare Abatement Program for ten years, retiring the Mcare Fund and providing healthcare insurance for the uninsured. Today, you will vote SB 1137 PN 1827 on final passage. As you debate this important legislation, POS wants to make you aware of some general concerns with the legislation.

As I stated last week, the POS supports some provisions of SB 1137 PN 1827, but we have concerns about other provisions. To that end, we believe the legislation should:

- Guarantee state revenues are committed to provide abatement as well as annual Mcare Fund obligations (claims and operating expenses) before other programs receive funding;
- Guarantee that state revenues in number one above are committed into the future until the Mcare Fund is completely retired; and,
- Require healthcare insurance contractors compensate PA ABC participating physicians at fair and reasonable reimbursement rates.

We also believe the legislation should be modified to ensure that healthcare insurance contractors be required to pay claims timely in accordance with industry standards; and that physicians actually receive any required co-payments from PA ABC enrollees.

As you move toward final passage of SB 1137 PN 1827, please consider these concerns. The POS stands ready to work with the House, the Senate and the Governor's Office to resolve these issues.

We do believe, however, that certain provisions need more review and consideration. We look forward to working with the House, the Senate and the Governor's Office to resolve these issues.

We encourage your affirmative vote for SB 1137 PN 1827 on final passage to keep the legislative process moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Jon B. Tucker, MD
President