

Midwest/Western fly-in

ASPS members rally congressional support for issues key to plastic surgery advocacy agenda

BY PETER WALLACE

A mix of first-time attendees and advocacy veterans united in Washington, D.C., on April 12, to promote the Society's legislative agenda to federal legislators, including the specialty's strong positions on the Children's Access to Reconstructive Evaluation and Surgery (CARES) Act, Medicare physician payment and medical liability reform. The group also raised concerns related to the Independent Payment Advisory Board created by the new health care reform law (see cover story).

A delegation of 12 ASPS Member

Government Affairs Committee Chair Anne Taylor, MD (Ohio), also attended.

"The fly-in provided an excellent opportunity to enhance the Society's advocacy efforts and educate lawmakers on issues vital to the specialty," says Dr. Huffaker. "Lawmakers and their staffs were unanimous in their support of Medicare physician payment formula changes, and they recognized the detrimental effects of short-term reimbursement 'patches' on access to care and practice sustainability. Additionally, much needed attention was brought to the CARES Act, with the efforts of plastic

surgeons this year leading to more than 80 CARES Act co-sponsors."

The ASPS Regional Advocacy Program is open to all Active ASPS members and Candidates for Membership and offers plastic surgeons a direct line of communication to their federal representatives and senators.

The next ASPS advocacy event, slated for Sept. 15-16, will engage ASPS members from the Southeast region. For more information on attending a fly-in, contact ASPS Government Affairs Associate Peter Wallace at pwallace@plasticsurgery or (202) 672-1519. **PSM**



Sheryl Young, MD, sits at the desk of Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.)



Top: William Huffaker, MD (right), presents Rep. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) with the CARES for Kids Award; Bottom: Tracy McCall, MD (left), and Robert Whitfield, MD, present the CARES for Kids Award to Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.)

Surgeons, representing seven Western and Midwestern states, visited more than 30 congressional offices and gained multiple co-sponsors for bills of vital importance to plastic surgeons and their patients.

The plastic surgeon activists who visited Capitol Hill during this regional advocacy event were:

- Illinois – Jeffery Flagg, MD; Nelson Gauto, MD
- Kansas – Sheryl Young, MD
- Missouri – Keith Brandt, MD; Bruce White, MD
- Texas – Bob Basu, MD; Steven Pisano, MD
- Utah – June Chen, MD
- Wisconsin – Tracy McCall, MD; Robert Whitfield, MD

ASPS PlastyPAC Committee Chair William Huffaker, MD (Missouri), and ASPS

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