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LOMA LEGISLATIVE GAZETTE

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the LOMA Legislative Gazette, a free publication provided by the Louisiana Osteopathic Medical Association to keep our osteopathic physicians in the state abreast of current advocacy matters. We hope to bring you a regular newsletter that will be brief but informative.

STATE MATTERS

The LSMS Hosts Legislative Reception and White Coat Wednesday at Capitol

Many physicians wanted to continue with what the Louisiana State Medical Society did at the Capitol in Baton Rouge last year, so the LSMS requested reserved days from the legislature. This year's Legislative Reception will be held with selected physician groups attending the reception. There are some space limitations, but approved groups should be able to bring up to 10 member physicians and staff. This event will be on Tuesday, March 29. Those physicians wishing to participate should anticipate a fee of \$1,000 per group. Please contact Maria Bowen, Vice President, Governmental Affairs for the Louisiana State Medical Society for further information. Her contact information is mbowen@lsms.org if you plan to participate.

White Coat Wednesday follows on March 30, which also happens to be "National Physicians Day". White Coat Wednesday is open to all physicians. This is an excellent time to demonstrate an active advocacy for your profession. You may also contact Maria, at the above email, for more information.

The Louisiana Osteopathic Medical Association (LOMA) advances the philosophy and practice of osteopathic medicine by providing a supportive working environment and continuing educational opportunities for current and future DOs, by educating the public about osteopathic medicine, and by promoting availability of quality cost-effective health care in underserved areas.



LOCAL MATTERS

VCOM Selected as Educational Conference Location

Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Monroe, Louisiana, is the upcoming site for the inaugural Louisiana Osteopathic Medical Association spring conference. In efforts to bring about more continuing medical education offerings to the physicians of Louisiana and surrounding states, a *new* annual conference is being planned for this upcoming spring. It will be hosted at the newest medical school within the state of Louisiana. VCOM-Louisiana is now in its second active year of student education, hosting more than 300 medical students and 85 full-time faculty.

LOMA is currently putting together a calendar of events leading to a one-and-a-half-day program that will provide 8-12 hours of CME. There will be an OMM workshop, a fun social event in the evening with heavy hors d'oeuvres, opioid and ethics lectures and a section for students, as well.

LOMA will also have student ambassadors leading tours of the building for those who have not had the opportunity to explore the Louisiana campus. Keep tuned to the website at <https://www.loma-net.org> for the soon-to-be announcement and schedule.

NATIONAL MATTERS

Solutions From Senator Cassidy

Cassidy-Led Bipartisan Bill to Improve Health Care Provider Mental Health Heads to President's Desk to Become Law

WASHINGTON – US Senators Bill Cassidy, MD (R-LA) and Tim Kaine (D-VA) applauded the final congressional passage of their bipartisan Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act to prevent burnout, suicide and mental and behavioral health issues in health care workers. Senators Todd Young (R-IN) and Jack Reed (D-RI) also cosponsored the bill, which now heads to the president's desk to be signed into law.

“Doctors, nurses and health care workers shoulder the responsibility of saving lives and have worked overtime during the pandemic,” said Dr. Cassidy. “Passing this bill through the Senate is one step closer to providing an important lifeline for medical professionals so they too can get the care they need.”

Read the full article at the following link:

<https://www.cassidy.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/cassidy-led-bipartisan-bill-to-improve-health-care-provider-mental-health-heads-to-presidents-desk-to-become-law>

Advocacy Support From the AOA:

TAKE ACTION

Raise your voice on issues that impact the osteopathic medical profession. The AOA calls on members to reach out directly to lawmakers when legislative activity significantly affects DOs and their patients.

Advocate on behalf of our profession and patients by engaging lawmakers and staying up to date on policy developments.

Visit the [OAN Action Center](#)

View the latest AOA advocacy alerts and learn more about how you can get involved.

https://osteopathic.quorum.us/action_center/

A Lagniappe From the AOA's Website:

Prioritizing Your Health & Wellbeing

Caring for patients is your top concern, but it's also more important than ever to devote time to your own health and wellness.

Long before the COVID-19 pandemic, burnout and depression were common challenges within the medical profession. Over the past two years, these challenges have exponentially multiplied due to the unrelenting and inexorable demands of the pandemic and the toll it has taken on the nation's health system.

Whether you're in crisis, or just beginning to struggle with burnout or depression, talking about how you feel is the first step toward recovery. The list below includes contact information for free, confidential physician support and guidance during, and beyond, the COVID pandemic.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: Dial 1-800-273-TALK (8255), or text the Crisis Text Line (text HELLO to 741741).

For more information, visit the National Institute of Mental Health's webpage at

<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/>

Physician Support Line: Dial 1-800-409-0141 for confidential peer support from licensed psychiatrists who have volunteered to assist their physician colleagues during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wellness Resources Physician Wellness and Burnout Tools: This resource from the American College of Physicians provides access to TedTalks, podcasts, webinars and wellness apps focused on improving your personal well-being and satisfaction.

Well-Being Resources: View curated resources available from the American Psychiatric Association, including targeted interventions for depression, burnout and addiction.

Clinician Support Tools: Recognizing the likelihood that the COVID-19 crisis may exacerbate existing levels of burnout and mental health stressors, the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) has compiled resources to support the health and well-being of clinicians providing health care during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Read more at:

<https://osteopathic.org/life-career/wellness/>

For comments or suggestions regarding this legislative gazette, please contact LOMA at:

ed@loma-net.org