Maine AMTA Government Relations Committee meeting

Feb 10, 2019

Meeting brought to order at 9:03

Present on the call: Alex Rheault, Tarnya Constantino, Anita Devito, Wendy Decker

Who on the HCIFS committee has not contacted so far? Wendy sent a position paper to all members of the committee and the clerk. Did not get much response.

Mobile team members: Alex, Tarnya, Jessica Greenbaum, Wendy Decker, Christine?

Alex can make copies if needed for the testimonies that speakers are reading at the hearing. We will send out all the testimonies we have to our governing relations committee, so we can see what others are covering. We want to try to cover all points. It is suggested by the clerk that we bring 20 copies of our testimony. We hand the clerk enough for her and each committee member and the leftovers can be put out for the spectators.

Discussion on the differences between position papers and testimonies. Testimonies can be as long as 3 minutes when read and are read or given at the public hearing. They are written and copies are presented to the clerk and committee members. Everything at the hearing is recorded I believe. Or at least all transcribed later. The testimony is a public record. If there is anonymous testimony, it is just not made public. Position papers are what you send or hand to legislators before a hearing, or before a vote on the floor of the House or Senate, and are one page in length, and more brief and to the point than testimony.

Brief discussion on what topic to write about for hearing.

Discussion on opposition expectations. We don’t have any expectation of opposition at the hearing, but we won’t really know until the hearing what will happen. We don’t know how long the hearing will last, but know that there are 4 bills including ours that have hearings starting at 1:00.

Discussion about the legislature trying to tax massage as personal services. Bob says he found at least 3 times this was attempted in the past, so he wants the HCIFS committee to understand that this last attempt by Governor LePage was not the only time. Massage is health care, not a personal service, and we are sure legislators wouldn’t have want to increase health care costs.

Who is speaking at hearing? Wendy, Alex, Jessica, maybe Christine. Possibly a LMT friend of Wendys.

We have at least 4 testimonies so far.

Brief discussion on Jennifer Dechant leaving the legislature and how that affects us. It should not affect us, as Brain Hubbell, one of the cosponsors will present the bill. Wendy had contacted him and he said he knew enough to present the bill. He said to contact the committee members to inform them of details.

Anyone attending the hearing should let others know their cell phone numbers so we can find each other once arriving.

Tarnya is keeping track of who said they contacted which legislators.

Anita has updated the Maine AMTA website and will continue to add our minutes as we have them.

Wendy will contact her friend. Tarnya will contact Christine and Jessica Greenbaum. Tarnya will send the documents we have so far for testimonies. Wendy will send what needs to have copies made to Alex to print. Alex can help write something on Friday for an update briefing of how the hearing went.

Next meeting Feb 1=24, Sunday 5 pm

There will be an update after the hearing, probably Saturday. We will send an update to our committee and then send another email blast to tell Maine LMTs what to help with next.

Outside of the meeting, Woodfords Family Services at Sanders Way in Westbrook was mentioned for CPR training they have on a regular basis for their staff. It was $75.