



Benjamin Rush

Benjamin Rush Institute



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BRI students are getting involved in healthcare policy in big ways.

Hello and Happy New Year!

January 2, 2017

My name is Trenton Schmale, and I am an OMS IV at Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (IN), and its BRI chapter founder and president. I am pleased to report on my involvement with my state's medical association, and the work I'm doing to promote positive changes in Indiana's healthcare laws. BRI was instrumental in my continued development and participation at this high level in the healthcare debate.



Trenton Schmale and Chad Curtis at ISMA 2016.

On September 24-25, 2016, the Indiana State Medical Association ([ISMA](#)) held their annual convention. Well over 100 physicians gathered from all across Indiana to speak and vote on resolutions put forth this year. Resolutions from all across the spectrum were brought up, including: physician assisted suicide, medical cannabis legalization, maintenance of certification ([MOC](#)), community medication disposal, and needle/syringe disposal, and my own resolution on direct primary care (DPC). The ISMA was fortunate to have [Dr. Andrew W. Gurman](#), 171st President of the American Medical Association in attendance. I, along with Chad Curtis, a 3rd Year MUCOM student and MUCOM-BRI chapter secretary, represented BRI.



Trenton Schmale, 2nd from left during a committee session.

Chad and I were two of four voting delegates for the Medical Student Section, and we also both sat on reference committees. Chad sat on the Constitution and Bylaws reference committee, which discussed resolutions pertaining to the ISMA constitution. I sat on the Socio-Economic and Regulatory reference committee, which discussed Indiana's prescription drug monitoring program ([INSPECT](#)) reporting, Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, MOC, and supporting physician-owned hospitals. We listened to authors present resolutions, and met to discuss amendments, as well as if the resolutions should be accepted or rejected by the ISMA.

The morning of September 24, I presented my resolution: Resolution 16-41 Direct Primary Care, to the Reference Committee 2 on Legislative Issues. My resolution's resolves are designed a) to define DPC to be outside the scope of state insurance regulation, b) create a mechanism in Indiana to allow Medicaid patients access to DPC (similar to [Qliance](#)), and c) have the AMA seek federal changes to Internal Revenue Code 213(d) and 223(c), allowing health savings accounts to be used with DPC, and allowing payments to DPC physicians to be considered a "qualified medical expense."



[Read the full text of Trenton's article here.](#)

I encourage all BRI medical students to get involved with their state medical associations, as what happens there does affect all doctors and patients. It is a great platform to spread free market ideas and create a medical environment where the patient-doctor relationship can thrive.

[READ TRENTON'S RESOLUTION](#)



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