



# **Making an Impact**

## **Supporting an Effective IHA PAC**

### **"Frequently Asked Questions"**

#### **Why do hospitals need a political action committee?**

- The fundamental purpose is to provide IHA and its members an additional tool complementing our legislative efforts.
- Elected officials at the Iowa State Capitol and in Washington, D.C. are increasingly making critical decisions that impact Iowa hospitals and health systems. These decisions profoundly affect a hospital's ability to fulfill its mission of providing high quality, affordable health care.
- Hospitals and health systems need a unified voice at the Iowa legislature and before members of Congress. The IHA PAC can give volume to this voice by helping to elect officials at the state and national level who are willing to stand up for our concerns.
- The IHA PAC allows Iowa hospitals and health systems to positively impact the election of political candidates who recognize and support health care's important role in Iowa.
- Due to the tremendous financial and regulatory power the government has over health care, the political reality is that hospitals must be willing to work closely with elected officials.

#### **How much of my PAC contribution goes to candidates?**

- One hundred percent of your contribution is used to support candidates who understand and support Iowa hospitals' concerns. No portion is used for staff salaries, overhead, or for expenses associated with lobbying activities. Most of the funds support candidates at the state level; the remainder is sent to the American Hospital Association's PAC to support national candidates demonstrating a continued commitment to hospitals.

#### **Who decides where IHA PAC money goes?**

- Candidate contribution decisions are made by the IHA advocacy team and the IHA PAC Committee, after careful evaluation of a candidate's voting record, political principles, and positions on issues of concern to Iowa hospitals. Although contributions to a PAC cannot be earmarked for a particular candidate, your suggestions of candidates to receive contributions are welcomed and given careful consideration.

#### **How are contributions presented to candidates?**

- Once a candidate has been selected to receive funds from the IHA PAC, the local hospital CEO may be asked to make the presentation. If a hospital CEO makes the presentation, it is helpful to include a member of the IHA staff. If the hospital CEO cannot or prefers not to make the presentation, a board member or an IHA staff member may do so. If it is not possible to present the contribution in person or at a fundraising event, the candidate is contacted by a member of IHA staff to let him/her know they will be receiving a contribution.

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### **Do PAC contributions buy or guarantee favorable votes on health care issues?**

- No. Contrary to some beliefs, a contribution to the IHA PAC does not buy or guarantee votes on a particular issue. However, our experience indicates that legislators who have received PAC contributions are more willing to listen to our concerns and are more supportive of hospitals' positions. By contributing to a political campaign, you are simply increasing the odds that a health care supporter will win and will keep the legislative door open after the election.
- A strong IHA PAC assures you, and other members of the hospital family, a voice before public policymakers.

### **Do I have to contribute a lot to join the IHA PAC?**

- No. Any amount is gratefully accepted and will make a significant difference in helping us shape a supportive state legislature and Congress.

### **What are my options for payment?**

- Donations to the IHA PAC can be made online with a personal credit card or by a personal check. No corporate contributions can be accepted.

### **Who is "fair game?" Who can we legally solicit without stepping outside the law?**

- **Hospital solicitations are limited to a restricted class.** Those who are considered "solicitable" must fall into two categories: the first being salaried hospital employees, the second a supervisory, managerial/administration position with professional responsibilities. Hospital trustees and employed physicians can be solicited. If any individual within the hospital falls under the second but not the first, or vice versa, they cannot be solicited for a PAC contribution.
- **State law also permits contributions from non-salaried employees and hospital volunteers.**
- To comply with the Federal Election Commission (FEC), contributions received from individuals who are NOT trustees or executive or administrative personnel or employed physicians will be used to SUPPORT STATE CANDIDATES ONLY.

### **Is my contribution tax-deductible?**

- No. Contributions to political action committees are not deductible on federal and state income tax returns.

### **Who can I call if I still have questions about the IHA PAC?**

- The staff at the Iowa Hospital Association will be happy to answer your questions and to explain why we think joining IHA PAC is so important. Contact information (515) 288-1955 or IHAPAC@ihaonline.org.

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