

Orthopaedic Section Advocacy Grant Report

6/23/2011

Good Morning Terri,

I apologize for not submitting an earlier report.

The \$5,000 advocacy grant from the Orthopaedic Section was used to retain additional lobbying assistance for our Chapter to specifically lobby against legislation that would amend the PT Practice Act and allow Physician employment of PT's and PTA's in SC. The SCAPTA budget includes lobbying expenses for the same primary lobbyist, Mike Daniel and Associates, we have employed since the mid- 1990's. During our recent 7-year battle in the court system and the legislature, SCAPTA has needed to supplement our lobbying efforts in order to meet the challenge. The specific contract lobbyist retained this year was Amelia McKie. She was chosen for her specific relationships to members of the 3M Committee. The 3M Committee is the committee which initially hears any legislation involving the PT Practice Act introduced in the House.

We additionally contracted with Jim McGee and Ray Corley. The total cost for our non-budgeted contract lobbying efforts this legislative session, January 2011-June 2011 was \$26,000. SCAPTA mobilized \$9,000 from our reserve fund to pay the balance that we were unable to raise through grant writing and fundraising efforts.

SCAPTA successfully opposed specific legislation in both the SC House and Senate in 2005, 2006, 2009 and 2010. Our efforts were successful this year as well. This year began a new legislative session so a bill would have to be introduced. We began lobbying and grassroots efforts 2-3 months prior to the session with the message of discouraging co-sponsorship of any draft legislation that would, once again, attempt to allow physician self referral for Physical Therapy. The primary goal was to discourage introduction of another bill. A bill was never introduced this session, however, our efforts continued throughout the session as they had in years where we were opposing a specific bill.

The advocacy grant was extremely beneficial and greatly appreciated by SCAPTA. Thank you for your support.

I hope this report is sufficient. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions. I did copy the SCAPTA Board for their information.

Sincerely,

Jim

Jim Stoker, PT, MA, SCS
President, SCAPTA