

# Legislative Alert

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## Virtual Lobby Day – June 26

PCPA's Legislative Affairs Committee announces **2006 Virtual Lobby Day as Monday, June 26** – and we need the help of ALL members to make it successful. Once again this year, especially during the association's June 6 Harrisburg lobby day, legislators and the governor's office commented on the effectiveness of PCPA's past virtual lobby days. We apologize for the short notice this year but budget negotiations between the legislature and governor's office have begun and calls **must** occur as close to Monday as possible.

### What YOU Need to Do

**Please set aside about 20-30 minutes on Monday, June 26** to make several phone calls – preferably, to your local legislators and the governor's office, or to legislative leadership offices (Harrisburg telephone numbers appear on the second page of this *Legislative Alert*). Since the General Assembly will be in Session on Monday, the **prime time for calls would be between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.**

If you participated in PCPA's Lobby Day on June 6, you may want to follow up with the legislators and staffers with whom you visited. If you wish to call your local legislators and do not know who they are, visit the following link in the *Legislative Affairs* section on the PCPA web site - [www.capwiz.com/lwv/officials/state/?lvl=C&state=pa](http://www.capwiz.com/lwv/officials/state/?lvl=C&state=pa) – or go to [www.legis.state.pa.us](http://www.legis.state.pa.us) (also available through PCPA's site) and utilize the tool in the upper-right corner of the homepage.

### The Message to Legislators and Governor Rendell

The message must be clear and succinct – whether speaking to the governor's office, a legislator, or a staffer:

- Hello, my name is [ ] and I am a provider/staffer/consumer/client [of mental health/mental retardation/drug and alcohol/children's human services]. I live in [ ] county. I am a voter and a taxpayer and I live in your district [if appropriate].
- The MH/MR/D&A system is committed to seeking equity with the other sectors (hospitals, nursing homes, managed care organizations) of the public health system. The MH/MR/D&A community requests a COLA in the 2006/07 state budget equitable to the allocation offered to other components of the public health system. Budgeting the same percentage increase for all sectors of the public health system (of which MH/MR/D&A is an integral part) is the only way to achieve true equity.
- Strong consideration must be given to measures such as House Bill 1813/Senate Bill 1006 (inflationary index legislation) and House Bill 1649/Senate Bill 727 (dedicated alcohol tax legislation) which would help achieve long-term funding solutions for the MH/MR/D&A system.
- Thank you for your time, and I look forward to your support on these issues.

In the course of discussion, you may also want to:

- Thank **House** members who have voted out both dedicated alcohol tax (House Bill 1649) and inflationary index (House Bill 1813) legislation unanimously.
- Encourage **Senate** members to vote for dedicated alcohol tax legislation (either House Bill 1649 or Senate Bill 727) and inflationary index legislation (House Bill 1813 or Senate Bill 1006). Ask them to request that their leadership bring the bills up for floor votes.

## How to Contact the Governor and Legislative Leadership

Governor Edward G. Rendell: (800) 932-0784 (717) 787-2500

Sen. Robert Jubelirer (R), President Pro Tempore: (717) 787-5490  
Sen. David "Chip" Brightbill (R), Majority Leader: (717) 787-5708  
Sen. Robert Mellow (D), Minority Leader: (717) 787-6481  
Sen. Robert Tomlinson (R), Acting Appropriations Chair: (717) 787-5072  
Sen. Vincent Fumo (D), Appropriations Minority Chair: (717) 787-5662  
Sen. Jake Corman (R), Public Health & Welfare Chair: (717) 787-1377  
Sen. Vincent Hughes (D), Public Health & Welfare Min. Chair: (717) 787-7112

Rep. John Perzel (R), Speaker: (717) 787-2016  
Rep. Samuel Smith (R), Majority Leader: (717) 787-3845  
Rep. H. William DeWeese (D), Minority Leader: (717) 783-3797  
Rep. Brett Feese (R), Appropriations Chair: (717) 787-5270  
Rep. Dwight Evans (D), Appropriations Minority Chair: (717) 783-1540  
Rep. George Kenney (R), Health & Human Services Chair: (717) 787-8523  
Rep. Frank Oliver (D), Health & Human Services Min. Chair: (717) 787-3480

## Additional Resources Available

Refer to the *Legislative Affairs* section of PCPA's web site to access items such as talking points, bill analyses, etc. Please feel free to contact any PCPA staff member with questions or concerns.

## Follow-up with PCPA

In order to track governor and legislative contacts, as well as the success of PCPA's virtual lobby day, please contact the association by emailing Melissa DiSanto Simmons, director of legislative affairs, at [melissa@paproviders.org](mailto:melissa@paproviders.org) the following:

- Your name/title/agency.
- Time of your call(s).
- Whom you called and with whom you spoke (name of staffer).
- The message you shared.
- Comments made to you during the call.
- Does the Governor/legislator support your issues? Will s/he vote to restore the cuts?

\*A legislative contact form, if you prefer, is also attached.

**Please follow up with PCPA by Friday, July 1.** The association thanks the membership for its support and hard work to secure funding for MH/MR/D&A.