

“Under the Dome” – CASA Reintroduces Cardiology Push

By CASA Lobbyist Bryce Docherty

Notwithstanding the COVID crisis and the self-imposed workload limitation of the Legislature last year, and the dire state budget situation, CASA was able to push an assertive advocacy agenda by *Sponsoring [AB 3083](#)*, authored by Assembly Member Joaquin Arambula, M.D. (D-Selma), aptly named the *“California Outpatient Cardiology Patient Safety, Cost Reduction and Quality Improvement Act,”* which would allow a Medicare certified ASC to perform diagnostic and interventional cardiology procedures such as angioplasties and stenting upon approval of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and consistent with joint guidelines published by the American College of Cardiology (ACC), Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI), and the American Heart Association. California is one of only a handful of states that do not explicitly allow ASCs to perform these cardiology procures recently approved by Medicare. This legislation, which was strongly supported by the California Medical Association (CMA), California Chapter – American College of Cardiology (ACC), Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions (SCAI), ACC, Philips, AdvaMed (among others) enjoyed unanimous and bipartisan support in the Assembly Health Committee but stalled in the Assembly Appropriations Committee due to implementation costs and downward pressure on the state budget.

CASA worked with all stakeholders throughout the fall and reintroduced this legislation again on February 1, 2021. [AB 370](#), once again authored by Assembly Member Joaquin Arambula, M.D., will be heard in the Assembly Health Committee in April. CASA has been engaging with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) on the cost impacts of the bill and continues to work through policy objections raised by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

This issue is more relevant as ever before as pent up demand for these Medicare approved cardiology procedures has resulted in delayed care and a significant uptick in cardiac and stoke related deaths. CASA will continue to push for increased access to these diagnostic and interventional cardiology procedures in the ASC setting by focusing on the published quality outcomes in other parts of the country, as well as emphasizing state oversight that ensures transparency and further safeguards patient safety.

Click [here](#) for the CASA sponsor letter, fact sheet and other background materials.

If you miss a day “Under the Dome” – you miss a lot!