

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **PHYSICIANS' "DAY AT THE CAPITOL" IS MARCH 16**

MINNEAPOLIS - Physicians from all over Minnesota will be at the Capitol Thursday, March 16, to talk to their legislators about issues that affect their patients during the Minnesota Medical Association (MMA)'s Physician Legislative Advocacy Summit.

Following a white coat rally in the Capitol Rotunda at 1 p.m., MMA physicians will visit their lawmakers and urge them to:

- Pass a statewide ban on smoking in ALL workplaces, including restaurants and bars as a way to protect Minnesotans from the health hazards of secondhand smoke.
- Fund Minnesota's health care safety net to make sure that low-income Minnesotans receive the care they need.
- Make failure to wear a seat belt a primary offence. This would increase seat belt use and reduce injury and death from motor vehicle crashes.
- Require insurers to cover the cost of providing language interpreters for non-English speaking patients as part of covered benefits.

The MMA is a professional association for physicians with about 10,500 members including practicing and retired physicians, physician residents and medical students.