More than 150 physicians, residents and medical students attended, making it the largest Day at the Capitol in 20 years.

**2017 DAY AT THE CAPITOL**

Physicians, students and residents lobby for health care reform

More than 150 physicians, medical students and residents spoke out on behalf of health care reform at MMA’s annual Day at the Capitol on February 15 in St. Paul.

In addition to health care reform, topics attendees discussed with lawmakers included reforming medication prior authorization; ensuring the sunset of the provider tax; aligning quality measures; and fighting the opioid epidemic in Minnesota.

“Now more than ever, physicians, medical students and residents need to band together and speak out on behalf of their patients and their professions,” says MMA President David Agerter, MD. “All signs point to a lot of uncertainty ahead in St. Paul and Washington, DC, regarding health care reform. When decisions affecting physicians are made, we need to be at the table.”

Sen. Matt Klein, MD, (DFL-Mendota Heights) told the group that after a day at the Capitol, he likes to get back to work at Hennepin County Medical Center, where he “knows what he’s doing.”

Paul Matson, MD, (left) and Keith Stelter, MD, talk with Sen. Nick Frentz. All three are based in the Mankato area.
Sen. Michelle Benson (R-Ham Lake) addressed Day at the Capitol attendees, urging them to share real-life stories with their legislators.

Janette Strathy, MD, meets with Rep. Dario Anselmo (R-Edina) in his office at the State Office Building.

University of Minnesota medical students have an informal discussion with Rep. Ilhan Omar (DFL-Minneapolis). Omar is the country’s first Somali-American, Muslim woman to hold an office at this level.

Gretchen Bosacker, MD, shares a laugh with a fellow physician.