

## 2016 BRANDEIS HEALTH POLICY SCHOLAR FINAL NARRATIVE

I very much appreciate the American College of Surgeons and the American Pediatric Surgical Association scholarship support for the 2016 Executive Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management course at Brandeis University. I found the instructors to be expert on their presented topics. In particular, it was a special opportunity to hear the perspectives and insights of Drs. Altman and Chilingirian who have been active in shaping many of the evolving health care initiatives over many years. Dr. Opelka's presentation of current ACS initiatives was helpful for me in grasping the larger political picture, although much of the activities are consumed by issues surrounding Medicare, rather than Medicaid. Finally, some of the more focused course material involving finance and contract negotiations was an important primer for me personally before starting my current studies in the Executive MBA program at the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University.

My committee involvement throughout the year has continued as before the course. In the APSA Health Policy and Advocacy committee, we remain focused primarily on promoting participation in state and local governments. For pediatric surgeons, our patients are particularly affected by the strength of the Medicaid program. Until my recent move to Colorado, I served eight years on the Texas Medical Association Subcommittee for Medicaid, CHIPS, and the Uninsured. I anticipate future involvement in the AAP Colorado Chapter given their ongoing involvement in many of the same Medicaid funding issues I witnessed in Texas. Also note that I highlighted the Brandeis course in a short presentation at our recent APSA national meeting in early May.

The ACS Advocacy meeting was an interesting experience for me in understanding the hierarchy of the Washington, DC political process. The young staffers were receptive to my message of re-authorization of funding for the CHIP program and the need to fully fund Medicaid, no matter what the final construct as the current administration seeks changes in our health care funding system.

My Health Policy Scholar year has been rewarding. The Brandeis curriculum was a thorough overview in health care policy and in introducing management skills to better achieve future objectives. I can certainly attest to the course's value in equipping surgeons as advocates for our patients and our profession.

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