

ASFs Would Be Taxed Under New Governor Wolf Budget (4-6-15)

Governor Tom Wolf presented his budget to the Legislature a few weeks back and one of his requests could have a serious impact on all of us. He has proposed that the Pennsylvania sales tax be increased from 6% to 6.6% but also that it be extended to "other ambulatory Health Care Services." Governor Wolf's plan includes many other professional services that would touch each PASA member. Furthermore, Governor Wolf's plan is very specific, it exempts Hospitals from the expansion and increase.

You must write or call your state representative in the very near future. Do you know who he or she is? Do you know their district office address or email? If not, please go to www.legis.state.pa.us and enter your home address. This webpage will then give you your representatives' name and contact information. In the meantime, our office continues the debate within the General Assembly on what should and should not be included in the sales tax expansion. At this point, it still remains an unknown whether the General Assembly will consider the expansion. The fact remains that the Commonwealth has very significant financial question marks that economics will force answers in the very near future. The Commonwealth simply cannot ignore the situation any longer. House and Senate members will be have to make very difficult decisions regarding the short and long term financial picture within the State. While they are, we will be working with them to make sure PASA has its voice at the table.

The quickest and most effective thing to do is to send your local House and Senate member an email. If you do not use email, then pick up the phone and leave a message at their district office. Please tell them that you are a constituent and your facility and its employees care about this issue. Tell them that the Governor's proposal to tax your facility will fall on the shoulders of families everywhere. In these difficult times, ASF's offer a quality service at typically lower cost. Adding 6% onto your services would be very substantial to your patients and constituents.

Please follow what the House and Senate are doing in the coming months. We realize everyone is busy, but none of us can afford to lose business because of the Governor's proposal to put an additional tax on us.