



## Increasing Recognition of Urgent Care in Washington

■ P. JOANNE RAY

Members of the Urgent Care Association of America (UCAOA) board of directors and Health & Public Policy Committee, accompanied by UCAOA staff members and Washington representatives, made the rounds of agencies, associations, and legislative offices in Washington DC in early November to share the urgent care story and increase recognition of urgent care centers. This year, in comparison with the last visit 2 years ago, the group was met with a greater level of understanding and acknowledgment of the role of urgent care centers as high-quality, cost-efficient, and convenient sites of service for urgent and primary healthcare services. Discussions were held with key leaders of America's Health Insurance Plans, American Hospital Association, Alliance for Healthcare Reform, National Committee for Quality Assurance, National Conference of State Legislatures,

and the Office of Carrier, Driver and Vehicle Safety Standards of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration in the U.S. Department of Transportation. In addition, nearly 30 meetings took place with U.S. senators, U.S. representatives, and their staff members from Arizona, California, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, North Carolina, New Jersey, Ohio, and Texas.

Stay tuned via *UCAccess* (<http://www.ucaoa.org/?UCAccessIssues>) for updates from these meetings and ongoing UCAOA activities and work in Washington DC as well as specifics from these meetings. In 2016, we are considering opening the Day on the Hill experience to interested UCAOA members so that more can join us in carrying the voice of our industry to legislators and decision-makers. We hope you'll consider joining us! ■



1. Part of the UCAOA delegation at the offices of America's Health Insurance Plans (left to right): Nathan Newman, MD, FFAFP; Tonia Trimuel; Robert R. Kimball, MD, FCFP; Laurel Stoimenoff, PT, CHC; John C. Kulin, DO, FACEP; and Steve P. Sellers, MBA. 2. Part of the UCAOA delegation at the offices of America's Health Insurance Plans (left to right): Sean M. McNeeley, MD; Don Dillahunty, DO, MPH; Roger Hicks, MD; Cindi Lang, RN, MS; and Robert G. Graw Jr., MD. 3. UCAOA group with two staff leaders from the National Committee for Quality Assurance. 4. From left to right, the delegation to the

American Hospital Association: Steve P. Sellers, MBA; Sean McNeeley, MD; Robert R. Kimball, MD, FCFP; Roger Hicks, MD; and Nathan Newman, MD, FFAFP. 5. UCAOA representatives met with Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA). Left to right: Sean McNeeley, MD; Nathan Newman, MD, FFAFP, Cassidy; and Steve P. Sellers, MBA. 6. Steve P. Sellers, MBA (left), met with Senator David Vitter (R-LA). 7. UCAOA Washington representatives Camille Bonta, MHS, and Geoff Werth, MPP, led the group to the Russell Senate Office Building.