

IRC MEDICAL PAC

P. O. Box 573 – Vero Beach, FL – 32961
Phone: 772-562-0123 Fax: 772-563-9923

Candidates for Florida House Seat District 54 (Indian River Co.) – Elections Nov 20, 2016

RESPONSE TO SELECT QUESTIONS POSED AT THE 10-6-15 MEET AND GREET

IRC Medical PAC Participants: Ralph Rosato, MD; Val Zudans, MD; Jason Radecke, MD

AMENDED 6-15-16

To include write-in responses by Greg MacKay, M.D.

General comments from Candidates to Med-PAC Panel at the Meet and Greet – and write-in comment by Greg MacKay, MD

Lange Sykes:

Lagoon friendly, Ag friendly: Fiscal responsibility & the economic impact on local community. Currently working with local growers on a project to improve soil & root systems (citrus trees & other ag).

Get educational decisions into the hands of parents. Pro Charter schools and school vouchers.

Ahead of others in fundraising. Multi socioeconomic buy-in; Tremendous support by realtors, agriculture; Door to door campaigning – 13,000 constituents.

Erin Grall:

My family is well established in the community. I am known for my moral values, strong character and respected family roots. Politics should be about all constituents instead of #1.

Support is strong in Indian River County and many physicians are strong supporters.

Dale Gladding:

Concerning my campaign in general, I can't compete financially with other candidates, but I will outwork them. Have support from evangelicals, conservatives and a working relationship with communities such as Gifford. President of Republicans for life. Ran for Congress in New Jersey - 2008 and 2010. Endorsed by the Florida chamber of Commerce in the spring 2015.

Dr. Greg MacKay

I am running for this seat because patients and physicians need representation. I am supported by many physicians and expect most physicians will support me as well as medical groups, strong advocates for patients and doctors and environmental groups.

The shortage of Primary Care Physicians is of great concern; we need to increase state funding for residency training program in this State to get doctors/PCP's to stay here in Florida!

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Relating to medical issues

Original questionnaire and questions posed by Med-PAC panel

The Med PAC panel discussed with each candidate the impact of the Supreme Court's decision to reverse the cap on punitive damages awarded in malpractice cases and discussed Scope of Practice expansion with emphasis on "piece-meal" legislation.

1. Question and response posed on original questionnaire:

Tort reform was undermined when the courts reversed the cap on punitive damages awarded in malpractice cases. Many physicians are without malpractice insurance due to the prohibitive costs. What can you do to address this problem?

***Response Lange
Sykes:***

With your help, I would be very interested in drafting a bill that addressed this specific issue during my first session in Tallahassee. One of my main goals is to fix the unfair advantage that the trial bar has over the medical community and the business community. Medical settlements, in my opinion should be paid out in real damages only, and attorney fees should be capped to discourage frivolous lawsuits.

***Response Erin
Grall***

Physicians are faced with many unnecessary and, at times, prohibitive costs and ultimately reducing those costs serves to lower the overall cost of healthcare to Floridians, which is a priority of my candidacy. With respect to tort issues and caps, my law firm has never handled medical malpractice cases. However, I have followed the Supreme Court's recent decisions. The question comes down to constitutionality of laws that are passed. Caps have been deemed unconstitutional. However, I have seen other medical malpractice reforms, such as revised expert witness standards and changes to civil procedures, pass recently and I would like to see the full effects of those changes on rates prior to exploring more tort reform as the answer. One must also consider insurance reform, like the allowance of dangerous "fail first" policies, a major part of the problem, and one that should be prioritized.

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1. Tort Reform (Continued)

Response

Dale Glading

Force insurance companies to reduce malpractice insurance commitment with proposed caps; and reintroduce tort reform legislation.

Response

Dr. Greg MacKay

I will push to reinstate a cap on punitive damages. Defensive medicine is a huge economic burden for the state.

2. Question posed by panel at the Meet and Greet:

Once elected, Are you committed to stand firm against the trial bar's stance against Tort Reform?

Are you willing to reach out to physicians to fully understand the ramifications of proposed legislation before making a decision on your vote?

Response Lange

Yes. We need to attract the next generation of physicians to handle the increasing population of retirees in IR county. A cap on punitive damages will be a major attraction for physicians and will encourage relocation in Florida. This was proven when Texas capped punitive damages.

Sykes

It is my responsibility to research and see the whole picture before supporting legislation.

**Response Erin
Grall**

I do not handle malpractice suits. Concerning about the Supreme Court's decision. This is also an educational issued; patients need to understand that physicians & practice of medicine is not perfect.

Although I am a member of the trail bar and support it and my colleagues as any professional supports its association, I am strongly committed to issues that affect our community. Health care is fundamental to our economy.

My family is well established in the community. I am known for my moral values, strong character and respected family roots.

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Politics should be about all constituents instead of #1.

2. Stand Firm
Erin Grall
(Continued)

Insurance reform is more significant than tort reform. 40 billion dollars were spent on Medicaid, but only (2% - 7%) of these funds were spent on physician reimbursements. We need to remove federal regulations and stress individual responsibility. I want to help find solutions. The trail lawyer's agenda is not my number one priority.

Response Dale
Glading

I believe in due diligence prior to supporting legislation and will ask for physician's point of view. I am not afraid to stand my ground; trial bar or otherwise. At age 56, I have the maturity and experience at fighting all odds. In 2010, I won the race for New Jersey's First Congressional District.

Response
Dr. Greg MacKay

Not present at interview.

3. Question and response posed on original questionnaire:

Q: Do you believe that non-M.D.'s D.O.'s should be allowed to expand their scope of practice to prescribe drugs, perform surgery and other procedures that are currently only the purview of medical doctors?

Response Lange
Sykes

No. I do not support scope of practice. If they want to practice medicine they should attend the same medical schools you did. Their argument is as faulty as someone without a real estate license arguing that they should be able to sell real estate, except in your case, an error or omission can result in death.

Response Erin
Grall:

As the self-policing entity for Doctors, the Board of Medicine would be a resource to me in making any such decision. However, Florida is a unique state with a unique population that our doctors serve, particularly with respect to senior citizens. As such, Florida's law should protect our citizens by not expanding the scope of practice to

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**3. Scope of Practice
(continued)**

those who are less qualified. I believe there is a prescription drug epidemic and think that more prescribers are not necessarily the answer to lowering health care costs.

Response Dale

Glading:

Prescribe drugs – yes – within certain parameters. Perform surgery – no.

Response

Dr. Greg MacKay

No – I do not support efforts of non-M.D.'s/D.O.'s to expand scope of practice. I think expanding scope of practice in many cases, puts patients at risk.

4. Question posed by panel at the Meet and Greet:

Will you commit to voting “no” consistently to any proposal to expand Scope of practice?

(Common strategy by such as Optometrists to gain ground for expansion of Scope of Practice is to introduce small “slices” of legislation for expansion, with sites on ultimately gaining the “whole salami”).

Response

Lang Sykes:

Blocking expansion of scope of practice is a top priority.

Response

Erin Grall:

Committed to researching and reaching out to physicians.

Response

Dale Glading:

Committed to vote based on research and facts.

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4. Commit to voting “no” on Scope of Practice (continued)

Response N/A – Not present at interview.
Dr. Greg MacKay

5. Question Posed on Original Questionnaire :

Uninsured and under insured patients are still a large problem in this county. As we know the ACA is not affordable to many working patients. The Medicaid system is already costing the state too much money. What solutions are you considering for this problem of caring for the states needy?

Response

Lang Sykes:

Working to lower the cost of insurance for patients and a better reimbursement of services to doctors coupled with meaningful tort reform will aid in making sure far more patients are covered in the state.

Response

Erin Grall:

Promoting proactive care should be prioritized rather than a system that is designed only to treat Floridians after they are not well. We must seek solutions that drive the uninsured from the emergency room to a medical “home” equipped to address medical needs as they arise and not merely when a problem requires substantial care. The Hospital District is in a unique position to have this conversation locally and provide solutions. Ideally those solutions would be considered on a state level. Medicaid should be reserved only for those truly in need and unable to provide for themselves. Further, finding alternatives to the traditional insurance system, like the ability to engage in direct primary care agreements, may reduce costs for patients and give more control of care to physicians. Reforms to this end would be a part of the overall solution.

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5. Solutions for the needy (Continued)

Response
Dale Glading: Reduce individual and corporate tax rates, thereby freeing up private and personal capital to care for fellow citizens. Provide tax incentives for doing so.

Response
Dr. Greg MacKay: We need to access all federal dollars available and then use market based healthcare solutions to provide care for the needy. Also need to make HSA's more attractive and affordable.

6. Question Posed on Original Questionnaire:

Loss of LIP (low income pool) Funding (for hospitals) due to Florida's policy to not accept federal funds to expand Medicaid per the ACA.

Response
Lang Sykes: No Response to this question.

Response
Erin Grall: I am unclear as to the question. Like our citizens, I support state government living within its means and not spending more than we are capable of providing to our constituency. I generally do not support proposals that make us more reliant on the federal government.

Response
Dale Glading: The LIP Funding that is tied to Medicaid expansion is a short-term fix that creates long-term financial obligation for the state.

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Question Posed on Original Questionnaire:

Because of the large Medicare and Medicaid population and poor reimbursement there is a shortage of Primary Care physicians, What may be a solution for this shortage.

6. LIP Funds (continued)

Response

Lang Sykes:

Comprehensive tort reform within the state will help incentivize out of state doctors to relocate to Florida and care for our patients.

Response

Erin Grall:

Again, I would look to the Indian River Medical Society, the Board of Medicine and the Florida Medical Association for answers to this problem. It is a trend that Florida needs to correct, particularly as we move into the baby boomer generation of retirees coming to our great state. There are incentives like student loan forgiveness that are uniquely appropriate to incentivize doctors to take their education to Florida practices. Also, looking for ways for Florida to be a medical destination with support for cutting edge technology and science can ensure that we have the best physicians here. Finally, in order for Florida to attract and keep more doctors, we must figure out a way to establish more residency spots in our state. Forty-seven percent of doctors establish practices in the state in which they complete their residency according to the medical college association. In 2014, Florida ranked 42nd in number of residency positions per 100,000 population.

Response

Dale Glading:

The ACA should have had provisions for training and hiring more PCP's instead of more IRS agents to write it.

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6. LIP Funds
(continued)

Response
Dr. Greg MacKay

We need to craft a Medicaid waiver based on market based plan to access federal funds owed to Florida.

Note:

Responses compiled by Shelley Stiven, Executive Director, IRCMS.

Responses to the original questionnaire were extracted from the original document completed by each candidate.

To see the entire and original document provided by each candidate, contact Shelley Stiven at 772-562-0123; ircdocs@bellsouth.net

Verbal Responses to questions posed at the Meet and Greet were hand-recorded at the meeting and reflect the recorders best interpretation of the responses.

Candidate Contact Information:

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