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### **Iowa Pharmacy Association's Annual Legislative Day Held**

**DES MOINES (February 14, 2008)** Over 200 pharmacist, pharmacy technicians and student pharmacists attended the Iowa Pharmacy Association's (IPA) Annual Legislative Day on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, at the Embassy Suites in Des Moines, IA.

Keynote speakers for the event were Senator Jack Hatch, Rep. Ro Foege and Julie Kuhle, IPA appointee to the Health Care Commission, who spoke on healthcare reform in Iowa. Senator Jeff Danielson spoke about PBM regulation and Tom Newtown, Director of Public Health, updated the attendees on the state of public health in Iowa. Tom Temple, IPA's Executive Vice President, and Bill Wimmer, legal counsel, spoke about IPA's legislative priorities. An Iowa Medicaid program update was given by Kevin Concannon, Director of the Iowa Department of Human Services, and Eugene Gessow, Director of the Iowa Medicaid Program. Dennis Goldford, Professor of Political Theory and Constitutional Law at Drake University, and Mike Glover, political writer for the Associated Press, gave a Presidential election update. Kate Puetz and Nicole Schultz, IPA staff, finished up the day with an update on federal issues facing pharmacy. Following the program, a legislative reception was held. Over twenty senators and representatives attended this event.

During lunch, attendees were given additional time to visit Iowa's State Capitol and meet with their senators and representatives. During this time, student pharmacists from Drake University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and the University of Iowa College of Pharmacy took part in additional programming with Rep. McKinley Bailey and Rep. Walt Tomenga to better understand the legislative process and how to become more legislatively involved as a student. Student pharmacists from both colleges also held blood glucose, bone density and blood pressure screenings, heartburn awareness and handed out MedCards to the legislators at the Capitol.

"IPA's Legislative Day serves as the focal event of IPA's legislative advocacy and public policy efforts, and is held annually to inform its members on legislative issues and priorities affecting their practices and patients," stated Jay Currie, Pharm.D., and current president of the Association.

*The Iowa Pharmacy Association is the state professional society of pharmacists, united for the purpose of advancing public health, particularly the pharmaceutical care of all Iowans.*

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