

STAFF

BILL SPEIR

MY NAME IS BILL SPEIR. I am PPTA's Assistant Director, State Affairs. I've been at the Association since June of 2007. My role at PPTA requires me to focus on three tasks: educating state officials and staff about the industry; assisting patients in maintaining access to their medically appropriate therapy; and lobbying the various state legislatures and Medicaid departments to seek outcomes that are beneficial to the consumers and producers of plasma protein therapies.

Tell us about your background.

I grew up in Columbia, Maryland and attended Frostburg State University, which is in Western Maryland about 20 minutes west of Cumberland.



I ultimately left my home state to complete my education at Widener University School of Law in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. After law school, I went to work at Blue Cross Blue Shield of the National Capital Area, where I worked in the Legal Compliance Department drafting contracts and negotiating approvals of contracts with regulators in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

After that, I was hired by the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives to advise the Representatives on health care issues. Most of the work involved advising the Representatives on Medicaid. Among the many issues I worked on in Tallahassee was Governor Jeb Bush's historic Medicaid Reform program. In fact, the first draft of Medicaid Reform legislation in the House contained my initials in the name of the document.

Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Florida House have proven to be great experience for my current position at PPTA. Many of my efforts on behalf of PPTA require me to use my knowledge of health insurance and Medicaid to craft positions that benefit the industry and the patients we serve.

What is your proudest professional achievement?

I'm proud of the educational program that we've developed at PPTA. I believe it is important to reach out to state decision-makers and their staff to educate them on plasma protein therapies so they will have that knowledge to help them make better decisions when considering issues that impact the industry and the patients we serve.

Among my many activities, the one I find most rewarding is helping patients maintain access to their medically appropriate therapies. I spend much of my time educating patients on how to effectively convey to decision-makers the need to maintain open access to medically appropriate therapies. At the end of the day, state decision-makers want to do the right thing for the constituents they serve while being frugal with their health care policy decisions. I hope after I speak with a patient, he or she is able to show the state decision-maker that maintaining open access leads to cost effective health care because it limits hospital visits which—are the big cost-driver in the health care system. 