



# DEFENDERS of MEDICINE

*Honoring TMA's Legislative Champions*



## **SPEAKER CAMERON SEXTON (R-CROSSVILLE)**

HOUSE DISTRICT 25 - CUMBERLAND AND PART OF PUTNAM COUNTIES

From his time serving as Chairman of the House Health Committee to now as Speaker of the House of Representatives, Cameron Sexton has been an ardent champion of healthcare policy in Tennessee. Throughout his time in office, he has advocated for policies that expand rural health access and protect fair reimbursements for physicians in medically underserved communities. While residing over the second session of the 113th Tennessee General Assembly, Speaker Sexton introduced and voted in favor of every legislative priority supported by the Tennessee Medical Association. His influence as Speaker and demonstrated allegiance to physician issues make him an obvious defender of medicine. The TMA PAC wholeheartedly encourages members to support his reelection and contribute to his campaign.

Learn more about Speaker Sexton and donate to his campaign [here](#).

## **MINORITY LEADER KAREN CAMPER (D-MEMPHIS)**

HOUSE DISTRICT 87 - PART OF SHELBY COUNTY



House Minority Leader Karen Camper has faithfully represented part of Memphis since 2008. During this time, she has been an outspoken voice for reasonable healthcare policy in the State of Tennessee. Her position as Minority Leader enables her to leverage her influence with the Democratic Caucus to support bipartisan measures that improve the lives and wellbeing of Tennesseans, as well as the professional working environment for physicians. In the most recent 2024 session, Leader Camper co-sponsored TMA's physician wellness bill and voted in favor of all other priorities as they moved through the legislative process. She also carried and passed legislation requiring TennCare to cover a 12-month supply of contraceptives in a single visit, an issue on which TMA has House of Delegates policy. While Leader Camper is not facing opposition in the 2024 election cycle, the TMA PAC still encourages members to support her bid for reelection.

Learn more about Leader Camper and donate to her campaign [here](#).



## **CHAIRMAN BRYAN TERRY, MD (R-MURFREESBORO)**

HOUSE DISTRICT 48 - PART OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY

As an anesthesiologist, TMA member, and Chairman of the House Health Committee, Representative Bryan Terry has been one of the most consistent defenders of medicine on the Hill. Not only is he an active supporter of physician issues, he routinely advocates for TMA's legislative priorities to ensure their passage. In the 2024 session, he passed much-needed legislation extending the timeframe in which physicians can sign death certificates, and fended off proposals that undermine physician autonomy in the workplace, including the repeal of the corporate practice of medicine. As a well-respected member of his caucus, Chairman Terry's opinion on health-related issues is coveted by his peers. This influence has enabled him to have a meaningful impact on Tennessee's practice environment and patients' access to high-quality healthcare. He is one of four practicing physicians serving in the Tennessee legislature, bringing necessary insight and expertise to any conversation relating to healthcare policy. Both the TMA and the State of Tennessee have benefitted greatly from his service, and we encourage our members to support his reelection campaign this year.

Learn more about Chairman Terry and donate to his campaign [here](#).

## **CHAIRMAN DAVID HAWK (R-GREENEVILLE)**

HOUSE DISTRICT 5 - GREENE COUNTY



Representative David Hawk is among the longest-serving members of the Tennessee House of Representatives, first winning his seat in 2003. Throughout his tenure he has served on a number of influential committees, including health, insurance, and finance. This experience has equipped him with a discerning eye for good public policy to the benefit of Tennessee's healthcare climate. As Chairman of the House Health Subcommittee, he judiciously oversees the progression of numerous healthcare bills impacting the practice of medicine and is always willing to lend his ear to physician advocates who visit his office. Chairman Hawk is especially helpful on insurance-related issues, consistently supporting doctors and other healthcare professionals in obtaining fair reimbursement and coverage for necessary services. This past session, he co-sponsored TMA's physician wellness initiative and voted in favor of all other legislative priorities. Chairman Hawk remains a steadfast advocate for his constituents by working to improve healthcare access and affordability, and thus, TMA PAC is proud to support his reelection.

Learn more about Chairman Hawk and donate to his campaign [here](#).



## **CHAIRMAN RYAN WILLIAMS (R-COOKEVILLE)**

HOUSE DISTRICT 42 - PART OF PUTNAM COUNTY

Representative Ryan Williams has proudly served the 42nd district since 2011 and is directly responsible for many positive healthcare policies becoming law in Tennessee. As former majority caucus chairman and current chair of the esteemed Appropriations Committee, he has established himself as a leader among his peers in the House. He currently serves as a prominent member of both the House Health Committee and Health Subcommittee, and despite having no background in the medical field, is regularly asked to carry some of the more difficult healthcare legislation. His continued success in these endeavors is not only a testament to his decisive influence, but his keen policy intellect. Over the years, Chairman Williams has proven his commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of Tennesseans. In the 2024 legislative session, he sponsored TMA's hybrid team-based care model bill to improve the collaborative relationship between physicians and their extenders, thereby ensuring patients continue to receive the highest quality of care no matter where they live. The TMA PAC is fortunate for his leadership and friendship in the legislature and proudly supports his bid for reelection.

Learn more about Chairman Williams and donate to his campaign [here](#).

## **CHAIRLADY ESTHER HELTON-HAYNES (R-EAST RIDGE)**

HOUSE DISTRICT 30 - PART OF HAMILTON COUNTY



Although Representative Esther Helton-Haynes has only served three terms in the legislature, her contribution to healthcare policy has been significant. A nurse by trade, she brings a wealth of healthcare knowledge and passion to her position in the House of Representatives and has understandably garnered the respect of her colleagues. Her ability to remain fair and balanced on all issues regardless of complexity and nuance has been a leading factor of her success in the legislature. As Chair of the House Insurance Subcommittee, Representative Helton-Haynes works to ensure patients and physicians are treated fairly on payer-related legislation. This session she voted in favor of numerous insurance reform bills that traveled through her committee and co-sponsored TMA's recoupment reform legislation. Her commitment to always doing the right thing even in the face of political adversity makes her an invaluable member of the legislature. TMA PAC encourages all Chattanooga and Hamilton County members to support Representative Helton-Haynes during this election cycle to ensure her continued presence on Tennessee's Capitol Hill.

Learn more about Chairlady Helton-Haynes and donate to her campaign [here](#).



**CHAIRMAN SCOTT CEPICKY (R-CULLEOKA)**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 64 - PART OF MAURY COUNTY

Representative Scott Cepicky has a long history of public service, previously serving as county commissioner of Maury County before being elected to represent the 64th district in 2019. Throughout his time in office has been a vocal proponent of education reform and was eventually named Chair of the Education Instruction Committee in the 113th Tennessee General Assembly. TMA developed a relationship with him through his role on both the House Insurance Committee and House Insurance Subcommittee, where he has continually demonstrated his support of physician issues. In the 2024 session, he voted in favor of TMA's recoupment reform bill and sponsored TMA's assault against physicians legislation, otherwise known as the Dr. Benjamin Mauck Act, to protect medical professionals from violence while working in a hospital or doctor's office. His positive voting record has made him a valuable asset to these committees and by extension, to patients' ability to access needed healthcare services. The TMA PAC is happy to support for Chairman Cepicky and encourages members to contribute to his reelection campaign.

Learn more about Chairman Cepicky and donate to his campaign [here](#).

**REPRESENTATIVE TOM LEATHERWOOD (R-ARLINGTON)**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 99 - PART OF SHELBY COUNTY



Representative Tom Leatherwood may be a relatively new member of the House, but he is no stranger to the legislature, having previously served in the Senate from 1993-2000 before leaving office to serve as Shelby County Register of Deeds. Since returning to the Tennessee General Assembly in 2019, he has been actively involved in healthcare issues, serving as Vice-Chair of the House Health Committee and member of the House Health Subcommittee. During the most recent legislative session, Representative Leatherwood sponsored one of TMA's priority issues, physician wellness, which creates legal protections for doctors seeking help for burnout without having to disclose it to their professional licensure board. He was also responsible for the Healthcare Provider Advertising Law, legislation that prohibits non-physician practitioners from advertising their services under the pretense of a specialty designation typically reserved for MDs and DOs. Both measures represent a major win for physicians and are a testament to Representative Leatherwood's willingness to support the medical community. The TMA PAC remains committed to supporting him in return and asks members to consider contributing to his reelection bid.

Learn more about Representative Leatherwood and donate to his campaign [here](#).



## REPRESENTATIVE BROCK MARTIN (R-HUNTINGDON)

HOUSE DISTRICT 79 - PART OF CARROLL, GIBSON  
AND HENDERSON COUNTIES

As a freshman legislator, Representative Brock Martin has already proven himself as a knowledgeable and capable champion of medicine. A chiropractor by trade and former president of the Tennessee Chiropractic Association, his advocacy on behalf of patients and providers was well-known even before winning his seat in 2022. He quickly ascended the ranks of leadership in the general assembly upon taking office, earning the title of Vice-Chair of the House Insurance Committee. In just two years, Representative Martin has used his platform as a force for good, carrying and passing multiple bills which TMA has actively supported. He has also shown he's willing to put up a fight against insurance companies, agreeing to sponsor TMA's recoupment reform bill to curb payer efforts to claw back improperly adjudicated claims months after the service was rendered. His astute, yet pragmatic, approach to policymaking foretells many more years of legislative success. The TMA PAC looks forward to continued collaboration with Representative Martin and encourages members to support his reelection.

Learn more about Representative Martin and donate to his campaign [here](#).

## REPRESENTATIVE BO MITCHELL (D-NASHVILLE)

HOUSE DISTRICT 50 - PART OF DAVIDSON COUNTY



Representative Bo Mitchell was first elected to the legislature in 2013 and has been nothing short of a dynamo lawmaker ever since. Although he is in the minority party, he has been incredibly successful in leaning across the aisle to pass legislation benefitting the health and welfare of Tennesseans. Representative Mitchell is a key legislator for many of TMA's policy priorities given that he sits on committees with direct subject matter jurisdiction on issues impacting the practice of medicine, including the House Health Committee, House Health Subcommittee, House Insurance Committee, and the House Insurance Subcommittee. This influence has been meaningful not only from a voting perspective, but also because he regularly works with members of his caucus to ensure bipartisan support on TMA legislation as it travels through the committee process. This political savvy has been instrumental to advancing the interests of the medical profession and improving healthcare access across the state. The TMA PAC fully supports Representative Mitchell's reelection bid and encourages Nashville members to support his campaign.

Learn more about Representative Mitchell and donate to his campaign [here](#).



## REPRESENTATIVE RONNIE GLYNN (D-CLARKSVILLE)

HOUSE DISTRICT 67 - PART OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Representative Ronnie Glynn is wrapping up his first year in the legislature and has already displayed the discipline, leadership, and character one would expect from a veteran. Though he is not a member of any health or insurance committees which TMA typically lobbies, he showed up for doctors this session when it came to the Dr. Benjamin Mauck Act, a bill that protects physicians from assault in the workplace. By helping to convince his caucus members about why the legislation was needed, he single-handedly ensured that the bill had a unanimous vote count as it passed through the Criminal Justice Committee. His pivotal role in its passage garnered the respect and appreciation of TMA lobbyists and solidified his commitment to advancing the interests of physicians. His continued presence in the legislature undoubtedly promises future support of medical professionals and the healthcare industry more broadly. As Representative Glynn seeks reelection for his downtown Clarksville seat in 2024, the TMA PAC highly encourages members to contribute to his campaign to support his return to the Tennessee General Assembly.

Learn more about Representative Glynn and donate to his campaign [here](#).

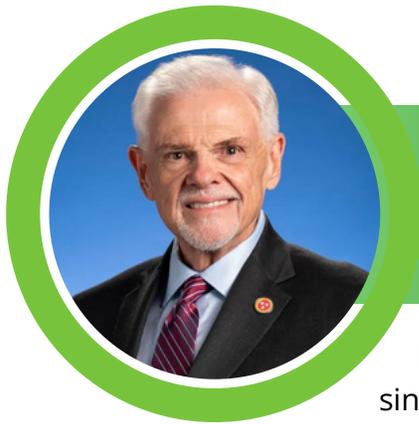
## SPEAKER PRO TEM FERRELL HAILE (R-GALLATIN)

SENATE DISTRICT 18 - SUMNER AND TROUSDALE COUNTIES



Senator Ferrell Haile has been a devoted public servant to the residents of Sumner and Trousdale Counties since his unanimous appointment to the Senate in 2010. A pharmacist by trade, Senator Haile has utilized his knowledge of the healthcare industry and his business acumen to inform his policy decisions relating to medicine. The result has been immeasurable strides for his constituents and the state as a whole. He has served as Speaker Pro Tem since 2018, using his leadership position in the Senate to influence major legislative priorities benefitting both patients and healthcare professionals. Senator Haile is consistently receptive to the viewpoints of TMA and willing to amend legislation when unintended consequences are brought to his attention. This reasonable approach to policymaking has cemented his title as a defender of medicine and most worthy of recognition. Despite his undeniably positive impact on our state, he is facing a primary challenger in 2024 who threatens to undermine the great work he has achieved during his tenure. Therefore, TMA is urging members to actively support his reelection bid.

Learn more about Speaker Pro Tem Haile and donate to his campaign [here](#).



## CHAIRMAN KEN YAGER (R-KINGSTON)

SENATE DISTRICT 12 - CAMPBELL, CLAY, FENTRESS, MACON,  
MORGAN, OVERTON, PICKETT, ROANE AND SCOTT COUNTIES

Longtime Senator Ken Yager has served in the Tennessee General Assembly since 2009, making him a seasoned leader with a long history of supporting the medical community. A member of both the Senate Commerce & Labor Committee and the Senate Finance, Ways & Means Committee, Chairman Yager carries significant influence with his peers and is well-known for his pragmatic approach to policymaking. In the 2024 session, he carried TMA's recoupment reform legislation to protect physicians from onerous insurer clawbacks that threaten the financial viability of practices and divert significant time and resources away from patient care. Throughout his time in office he has consistently voted in favor of all of TMA's legislative priorities and remained a champion of rural health initiatives. He has also been outspoken about the opioid epidemic and worked to implement policies that combat improper prescribing and substance use disorder. TMA PAC is confident that, if reelected, he will continue to be a wise leader in the Senate and determined defender of medicine.

Learn more about Senator Yager and donate to his campaign [here](#).

## MINORITY LEADER RAUMESH AKBARI (D-MEMPHIS)

SENATE DISTRICT 29 - PART OF SHELBY COUNTY



Senate Minority Leader Raumesh Akbari is both a passionate and pragmatic voice for her constituents on the Hill. Her ability to work across the aisle on major policy discussions makes her an invaluable asset to the Tennessee legislature. Of the numerous accomplishments for which she is responsible, the TMA is most appreciative of her support on payer-related issues through her position on the Senate Commerce & Labor Committee. As the lone Democrat on the committee, she brings a unique perspective to insurance policy discussions and always considers the impact on patient access and costs. In the 2024 session, Leader Akbari sponsored several bills on which TMA has House of Delegates policy, including firearm safety, abortion, contraceptive access, and Medicaid expansion. Additionally, she co-sponsored TMA's physician wellness bill and voted in favor of both recoupment reform and the hybrid team-based care model. Although she is not up for reelection in the 2024 cycle, her dedication to improving the lives of Tennesseans is evident. Thus, TMA PAC encourages Memphis physicians to support her continued presence in the legislature with a campaign contribution.

Learn more about Senator Akbari and donate to her campaign [here](#).



## SENATOR SHANE REEVES (R-MURFREESBORO)

SENATE DISTRICT 14 - BEDFORD, CANNON, MOORE  
AND PART OF RUTHERFORD COUNTIES

Since taking office in 2017, Senator Shane Reeves has been a true friend to physicians and a fervent champion of healthcare reform. As a pharmacist and businessman, he brings a wealth of personal knowledge to his policymaking that rivals even the most seasoned legislators. His position on both the Senate Commerce & Labor Committee and the Senate Health & Welfare Committee give him jurisdiction over bills impacting both healthcare and insurance, making him a very influential member of the upper chamber. He has used this influence wisely, regularly introducing ambitious legislation that seek to improve the healthcare landscape of Tennessee, including prior authorization reform back in 2023. During this most recent session, Senator Reeves sponsored TMA's hybrid team-based care model bill to give medical practices more oversight flexibility. Throughout this process he was responsive to the needs of the Coalition of the Collaborative Care and more than willing to change his position on scope-related proposals when presented with new information. His thoughtful and balanced approach to lawmaking has solidified his status as a defender of medicine. The TMA PAC encourages members in Senate District 14 to consider contributing to his reelection campaign to ensure his continued presence in the legislature.

Learn more about Senator Reeves and donate to his campaign [here](#).



## SENATOR HEIDI CAMPBELL (D-NASHVILLE)

SENATE DISTRICT 20 - PART OF DAVIDSON COUNTY

As the daughter of a cardiologist and sister to a urologist and obstetrician, Senator Heidi Campbell is no stranger to the issues plaguing the medical field. Her knowledge of healthcare coupled with her resolute support of patients has made her an invaluable resource in the Senate. Though she does not sit on the Senate Health & Welfare Committee, Senator Campbell has carried numerous bills aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of Tennesseans, including advocating for additional mental health resources and childcare support. In the 2024 session, she sponsored several firearm safety bills on which TMA has House of Delegates policy, including safe storage, regulation of high-capacity magazines, and extreme risk protection orders. She also co-sponsored TMA's physician wellness bill and voted in favor of all other priority legislation. Her commitment to advancing public health laws make her an esteemed friend of medicine. The TMA PAC strongly encourages members in the Nashville area to contribute to her reelection bid.

Learn more about Senator Campbell and donate to her campaign [here](#).