



CAPITAL MEDICAL  
SOCIETY  
FOUNDATION

## PHYSICIANS!

UNITED WAY of the BIG BEND Eliminates WE CARE Healthcare Grant Support  
This abandonment of "access to Healthcare" seriously impacts our patients.

Please help!

April 5, 2019

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As a physician in this community, you prioritize access to healthcare each day in service to your patients. As Capital Medical Society members, you align with its mission "to promote the practice of medicine for the ultimate benefit of the patient." The Capital Medical Society Foundation's mission includes the support of the charitable efforts of physicians and others and to increase access to healthcare.

The Capital Medical Society has been partners with the *United Way of the Big Bend* in the delivery of donated specialty medical and specialty dental care through its We Care Network program since 2002. If you were a past UWBB leadership donor individually or through your practice, you helped provide grant funding for the We Care Network program. This year, UWBB made a significant change in its direction and eliminated access to healthcare as one of its impact foci, as it fine-tunes its efforts to "stabilize the working poor and end poverty." This elimination of access to healthcare does not align with the 2018 Alice Report, shared with the community by the UWBB, that reports, "the rise in the Household Survival Budget in Florida between 2010 and 2016 was driven primarily by the significant increase – more than 80% - in healthcare costs." The reports states, "As health costs rise, there will be increasing disparities in health based on income. The "Asset-limited, Income-Constrained, Employed" population comprises 43% of Leon County's population.

UWBB also eliminated "certified nonprofit UW agency" status from all previously certified agencies, so that UWBB donors can no longer designate their donations to the UWBB nonprofit agency of their choice if they do not embrace the new broad categories of Housing, Early Learning, Safety Net, Aging Workforce, and Skills Development.

Capital Medical Society Foundation's We Care Network coordinates donated specialty medical and specialty dental care to low income, uninsured adults in Leon, Gadsden, Jefferson and Wakulla Counties. Last year, it coordinated over \$8 million in donated specialty healthcare, donated by the physicians of this community. We continue to be laser-focused in this effort and hope that as you make philanthropic decisions either personally, or through your practice, you will continue to prioritize access to healthcare by now making your philanthropic healthcare gifts to Capital Medical Society Foundation for its We Care Network program. Please contact either of us if you are interested in making a pledge or multi-year pledge, thereby aligning your service in healthcare with your philanthropy. For online gifts, visit <https://capmed.org/donate/>.

With gratitude,

John Mahoney  
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Pam Irwin  
Executive Director