## Healthcare



U.S. Senator Jack Reed addresses the audience at a forum on medication adherence organized by CK Communications.

# Policy Expertise

It could be argued that no industry touches as many Americans in a more profound way than our nation's healthcare sector. The successful battle against disease through the advent of new medicine and technologies that extend life are welcome developments that highlight the advancements of modern medicine.

Yet modern medicine operates in a complex environment where government regulations and insurance requirements from Washington, D.C. or the states often have as much to do with a person's access to life sustaining healthcare as any other factor.

This reality places a premium on the skills needed to forge coalitions of like-minded organizations to protect patient access to medicine and address other important healthcare policy issues. CK Communications has these skills and has proudly used them on behalf of long-time agency clients, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America and the Arthritis Foundation's New England Region. Highlights of our work across a broad spectrum of complex healthcare issues includes:

#### **Canadian Drug Importation**

CK Communications helped develop and lead a coalition of patient advocates and medical professionals against proposed legislation in Rhode Island to allow importation of Canadian drugs. At the end of the campaign, not a single Canadian pharmacy established operations in Rhode Island.

#### **Rollout of the Medicare Part D Benefit**

CK Communications worked in states across New England to help promote the new Medicare Part D prescription drug benefit to eligible Americans. The agency coordinated events in concert with PhRMA and the Department of Health and Human Services to promote eligibility and boost signups for the new program.



#### **Best and Brightest Forum on Medical Innovation**



CK Communications was tapped by the Council for American Medical Innovation to help coordinate a high level panel discussion focused on medical innovation that involved former U.S. House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and leaders of Rhode Island's growing biotech and medical innovation industry. The event was a major success in bringing industry leaders together to discuss common challenges and policy solutions to help grow this critical sector of the state's economy.

#### Implementation of the Affordable Care Act

As states across the nation decided how to implement the Affordable Care Act, Rhode Island became one of a few states to create a Health Benefits Exchange through an executive order of the state's governor. On behalf of a group of patient advocacy organizations, CK Communications arranged presentations by the leaders of the state's exchange with patient groups, enabling an open dialogue between the patient advocates and the policy makers whose decisions would have profound impacts on citizens' access to medical care.





U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse and former Secretary of the Rhode Island Department of Health and Human Services, Steven Costantino, discuss medication adherence at the forum organized by CK Communications on behalf of the Council for Affordable Medicine.

#### **Advancing Medication Adherence**

CK Communications was tapped to organize a panel discussion involving Rhode Island's leading healthcare experts to address the important topic of medication adherence. Helping patients take medication as prescribed is a critical factor in successfully managing chronic disease. CK Communications' breadth of relationships with policy makers was evident in the planning of this event that involved Rhode Island's two U.S. Senators, the state's Secretary of Health and Human Services, and a host of other senior healthcare policy officials.

#### **Forging Patient Advocacy Coalitions**

For nearly a decade, CK Communications has helped lead the Rhode Island Health Advocacy Forum, which was created to provide a forum for patient advocates to share common concerns about issues affecting the health and wellbeing of Rhode Islanders who suffer from chronic diseases and other illnesses.

The Forum has enabled voluntary health agencies, medical associations and related groups to speak collectively as a powerful voice on public policy issues affecting patients and their access to health care.



Stephen Evangelista, CEO of the Arthritis Foundation, New England Region, at a press conference organized by CK Communications to address concerns over access to medication for Rhode Island Medicaid recipients.

### Let the CK Communications team produce measurable results for you.

If you would like to leverage the vast experience and skills of the CK Communications team, contact one of our representatives today. We look forward to discussing the challenges you face, and the solutions we can develop that will produce measurable results. After all, measureable results is what we're all about.



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