

DEFENDERS *of* MEDICINE

Honoring TMA's Legislative Champions



SPEAKER CAMERON SEXTON

HOUSE DISTRICT 25 | R-CROSSVILLE

Speaker Sexton is currently serving his 8th term in the Tennessee House of Representatives where he has held a number of leadership positions, including Chair of the House Health Committee and the Republican Caucus Chair. He has earned his place as a Defender of Medicine for the second year in a row. As Speaker, he is an outspoken advocate for good healthcare policy and pro-medicine laws. Whether through his vocal support for TMA supported priorities or for his wisdom and leadership during each session, the TMA PAC is proud to know it has a friend in the Speaker's office.



REPRESENTATIVE RON TRAVIS

HOUSE DISTRICT 31 | R-DAYTON

Representative Travis, a veteran member of the House, currently serves on the House Population Health Subcommittee, as well as Health and Judiciary Committees. An insurance agent by trade, he brings a unique perspective to some of the most challenging debates. In 2025, Travis was a reliable friend to medicine and a vocal supporter of many policies that were critical for the practice of medicine. The TMA PAC is happy to name Representative Ron Travis a Defender of Medicine for 2025.

**LEADER HAROLD LOVE JR.**

HOUSE DISTRICT 58 | D-NASHVILLE

Leader Love is a reliable voice of reason in the House of Representatives. The TMA was thrilled to see him named to the brand new TennCare Subcommittee in the House and is confident he will lend his wisdom to his colleagues to drive necessary debate on the appropriate use of TennCare funds and regulations. This year, Leader Love was always welcoming to our lobbyist and doctors of the day, willing to hear and consider concerns raised about the state of healthcare in Tennessee. Love is a clear choice for 2025's Defender of Medicine list.

**LEADER WILLIAM LAMBERTH**

HOUSE DISTRICT 44 | R-PORTLAND

Majority Leader William Lamberth is a proven leader and champion for his caucus. Representing part of Sumner County since 2013, Lamberth's legal background and quick thinking makes him a thoughtful and proactive leader in the House. During the 2025 legislative session, Lamberth was an ally on numerous important legislative priorities of the TMA and always willing to discuss bills, even when he disagreed with the TMA. The TMA knows that the legislature is improved by his leadership and grateful for his friendship. The PAC is thrilled to include him as a 2025 Defender of Medicine.

**REPRESENTATIVE JOHNNY GARRETT**

HOUSE DISTRICT 45 | R-HENDERSONVILLE

Representative Johnny Garrett is a lifelong Sumner County resident and the Majority Whip in the House. As whip, Garrett is responsible for ensuring the smooth passage of GOP priority legislation. Garrett is not only a strong leader for his caucus but also a great champion of medicine in the House. This year, Garrett was instrumental in passing the TMA supported prior authorization bill and was a vocal supporter of other TMA priorities. Furthermore, Representative Garrett is available for the TMA team and doctors, always willing to listen and consider all concerns raised. TMA PAC is proud to name Rep. Garrett a 2025 Defender of Medicine.

**CHAIRLADY ESTHER HELTON-HAYNES**

HOUSE DISTRICT 30 | R-EAST RIDGE

Chairlady Helton-Haynes has demonstrated consistent commitment for the betterment of medicine. She is a reliable voice for healthcare policy and an outspoken advocate for medicine. As chair of the House Insurance Subcommittee, she oversees all bills related to the regulation of healthcare insurance. In this role she is a strong voice for moderation towards some potentially harmful regulations. In 2025, Chairlady Helton-Haynes was key to the passage of the In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) protection bill, codifying the right of families to access to IVF options. The TMA PAC is thrilled to include Chairlady Helton-Haynes for a second year as a Defender of Medicine.

**REPRESENTATIVE TOM LEATHERWOOD**

HOUSE DISTRICT 99 | R-ARLINGTON

Vice-Chair of the House Health Committee and a seasoned veteran of the legislature, Representative Tom Leatherwood brings the knowledge, passion and experience to the Tennessee General Assembly which gives him an edge for his constituents and the State of Tennessee. Boasting a strong relationship with the Memphis Medical Society, Leatherwood is a key ally for the legislative goals of organized medicine. The TMA PAC can think of few individuals who better exemplify what it means to be a servant leader and therefore is proud to include him as a Defender of Medicine for the second year in a row.

**CHAIRLADY IRIS RUDDER**

HOUSE DISTRICT 39 | R-WINCHESTER

Chairlady Rudder has time and time again demonstrated her commitment to the medical community and the State of Tennessee. As a former county GOP chair, Republican women chair, county commissioner, as well as her involvement in numerous charitable organizations, Chairlady Rudder has dedicated her life to service. She brings her spirit of service and her shrewd knowledge of business and politics to her policymaking in Nashville. This year, Representative Rudder was the sponsor of the IVF and Contraception Protection Act. The TMA PAC is happy to include her as a 2025 Defender of Medicine.

**CHAIRMAN GARY HICKS**

HOUSE DISTRICT 9 | R-ROGERSVILLE

Chairman Hicks was recently appointed Chair of influential House Finance, Ways and Means Committee and has exemplified what it means to be a fiscally responsible and compassionate leader. Before session began, Chairman Hicks met with TMA and stakeholders to discuss the issues posed by low reimbursement rates for TennCare. The Chairman reiterated his support for addressing this issue and ensuring Tennesseans have access to the high-quality care. The TMA is excited to be working with Chairman Hicks in the future and immensely grateful for the strong focus on these important issues. The TMA PAC is proud to include Chairman Hicks as a Defender of Medicine for 2025.

**REPRESENTATIVE SAM MCKENZIE**

HOUSE DISTRICT 15 | D-KNOXVILLE

While a new addition to the Health Subcommittee, Representative Sam McKenzie has already proven himself a thoughtful, insightful and invaluable addition. A former scientist at Oak Ridge Laboratories, board member for Fisk University and engaged member of numerous nonprofit organizations, Representative McKenzie is thoughtful and pragmatic with his approach to policymaking. Last year he was critical in his opposition to increasing prescribing abilities to untrained psychologists, a decision which would protect the physical and mental health of Tennesseans. The TMA PAC considers inclusion of Representative McKenzie in this year's Defenders of Medicine list a clear choice and are excited to work with him in the future.

**REPRESENTATIVE SHAUNDELLE BROOKS**
HOUSE DISTRICT 60 | D-HERMITAGE

Freshman Representative Shaundelle Brooks entered the 2025 legislative session with a professionalism, keen eye for success and legislative prowess possessed by few new lawmakers. In her first year, she joined the Democratic Caucus leadership as Assistant Democratic Leader and championed numerous bills addressing mental health treatment issues. Representative Brooks was also instrumental in fighting several harmful bills impacting medicine that passed through Population Health Subcommittee. The TMA PAC is impressed by what Representative Brooks has accomplished so far and is excited to see what she does in the coming years. We are thrilled to make her the only freshman recipient of this year's Defenders of Medicine award.

**LT. GOVERNOR RANDY MCNALLY**
SENATE DISTRICT 5 | R-OAK RIDGE

Lt. Governor Randy McNally is not only a healthcare professional by trade but a master of the Senate with years navigating the complex lawmaking process. He is well beloved by members of his caucus for his ability to manage the agenda of the Tennessee Senate with tact and grace, and deliver results for Tennesseans. The Lt. Governor has always been available to organized medicine, hearing and considering the agenda of the TMA as it seeks to improve the lives of physicians and patients. He is a reliable and invaluable friend to medicine and healthcare providers and a clear choice for the 2025 TMA PAC Defenders of Medicine list.



SENATOR BECKY MASSEY

SENATE DISTRICT 6 | R-KNOXVILLE

Chairlady Becky Massey of Knoxville represents the best of leaders in state government. An experienced businesswoman, Senator Massey has dedicated her life to advancing the interests and care of those diagnosed with Sertoma as the Executive Director of the Sertoma Center in Knoxville. She is also an active volunteer with numerous organizations in Knoxville. For the past several years, she has served as the Chair of the Transportation Committee and been a faithful member of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee. As with years past, Senator Massey was a vocal supporter of pro-medicine legislation including the IVF protection bill, which she sponsored. Both Knoxville and Tennessee benefits from Chairlady Massey's leadership which is why she was selected as a 2025 Defender of Medicine.



SENATOR HEIDI CAMPBELL

SENATE DISTRICT 20 | D-NASHVILLE

Senator Campbell comes from a family of physicians and is well-versed on healthcare issues. With these familiar connections, Senator Campbell has a unique understanding of the difficulties faced by the medical community and is a reliable voice of reason defending pro-medicine policies. A keynote speaker during this year's TMA PAC Reception and an active friend of medicine, the TMA PAC is proud to make Senator Campbell the only repeat Senate member to the TMA PAC Defenders of Medicine for this year.



SENATOR RUSTY CROWE

SENATE DISTRICT 3 | R-JOHNSON CITY

Senator Crowe is the current Chairman of the Senate Health & Welfare Committee and a longtime advocate for patients and physicians. This year, he sponsored legislation aiming to increase reimbursements for practitioners who participate in TennCare, but he has a well-established record of advancing meaningful healthcare policy. A seasoned veteran of the Senate, Crowe has worked tirelessly to represent the healthcare needs of Northeast Tennessee and has been instrumental in ensuring healthcare access in the most rural regions of his district. The TMA PAC is happy to name Senator Rusty Crowe as a Defender of Medicine for 2025.