



Senior Vice President, Government Affairs

Leadership Profile

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WittKieffer

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The Opportunity

The Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, Inc. (FSMB) seeks a dynamic and distinguished executive to serve as its next Senior Vice President, Government Affairs (SVP). This role will be based in FSMB's Washington, D.C., office.

FSMB is a national nonprofit organization representing all of the 69 state medical and osteopathic regulatory boards across the United States and its territories. Since its founding in 1912, FSMB has supported these boards in their public-protection mission by strengthening the licensure, regulation, and discipline of physicians and other healthcare professionals.

The organization provides a coordinated platform for state boards to share best practices, develop model policies, and address emerging issues in medical regulation, including artificial intelligence and telemedicine, opioid prescribing, and licensure portability. FSMB operates several nationally important programs, such as the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE), which it co-manages with the National Board of Medical Examiners, the Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS), and the Physician Data Center (PDC).

Through research, policy development, advocacy, and interstate collaboration, FSMB plays a critical role in maintaining high standards in medical practice and strengthening public trust in the healthcare system.

Reporting to the Chief Public Affairs Officer (CPAO), the SVP will lead FSMB's federal and state public policy strategy and execution. This executive will shape and advance advocacy priorities, foster strategic partnerships, guide engagement efforts, and oversee regulatory monitoring and reporting in support of FSMB's mission and member board interests. A key member of the executive leadership team, the SVP will work closely with FSMB's Board of Directors, member state medical boards, the U.S. Congress, federal agencies, state legislatures, stakeholder organizations, and internal teams, including those dedicated to member engagement, policy, communications, and education.

This highly visible and influential position requires a confident, relationship-driven leader who excels at collaboration across senior leadership, boards, external partners, and internal teams. In addition to managing and further developing the government relations team, the SVP will oversee internal engagement strategies, external partner relationships, enhanced communication tools, cross-organizational collaboration opportunities, and thought-leadership initiatives aligned with FSMB's strategic priorities. The SVP will serve as the organization's lead legislative strategist, primary advocate in Washington, D.C., and a trusted advisor to executive leadership and member boards—driving legislative, regulatory, and advocacy efforts that reflect board-driven direction.

The SVP will represent FSMB on the national stage, including on Capitol Hill, at high-level stakeholder convenings, and in media engagements, while building and mentoring a high-performing internal policy and government affairs team. This leader must be a polished, credible spokesperson and a strategic, disciplined manager capable of structuring, elevating, and empowering a strong team.

The ideal candidate will be team-oriented, agile, and aligned with FSMB's values-driven culture. FSMB seeks an executive with a track record of building and managing teams and demonstrated expertise in government relations, strategic advocacy, and policy leadership. The successful candidate will be creative, politically astute, extroverted, and an engaging public speaker, with strong analytical and strategic thinking skills. Candidates from a broad range of healthcare-related backgrounds will be considered; however, knowledge of federal and state healthcare policy, legislative processes, and regulatory frameworks is strongly preferred.

Organization Overview

FSMB is a national non-profit organization representing all 69 of the state medical and osteopathic boards of the United States, its territories, and the District of Columbia. Established in 1912, the FSMB represents and supports boards as they fulfill their statutory mandate of protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare through the licensing and regulation of physicians and other health care professionals. The organization is increasingly engaged in federal and state legislative and regulatory policy arenas to anticipate and respond to evolving healthcare delivery and regulatory trends.

FSMB proudly supports state medical boards within the United States, its territories, and the District of Columbia. FSMB serves its member boards as they fulfill their mandate of protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare through proper medical regulation, licensing, and disciplining of physicians, PAs, and other healthcare professionals.

Our Vision

A medical regulatory system in which patients have access to high-quality health care, and the integrity of the practice of medicine is protected.

Our Mission

To serve as a national voice for state medical boards, supporting them with services and initiatives that promote patient safety, the integrity of the practice of medicine, access to high-quality health care, and regulatory best practices.

Our Strategic Goals

Serve state medical boards by promoting regulatory best practices and providing operational resources that add to their effectiveness.

Position Summary

The Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, will serve as the organization's lead legislative strategist, primary advocate in Washington, and a trusted advisor to leadership and member boards. This is a highly visible and externally facing position responsible for shaping and executing the organization's legislative, regulatory, and advocacy agenda while ensuring alignment with board-driven strategy.

The SVP will represent the FSMB on the national stage, including on Capitol Hill, at major stakeholder meetings, and in the media, while also leading and developing the internal policy team. This leader must be both a polished, credible spokesperson and a strong internal manager who can structure, build, and elevate a high-performing team.

Reporting Relationships

The Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, will lead a four-member team responsible for the organization's legislative and policy activities. The SVP will also manage the FSMB's external government affairs consultants.

Responsibilities

The successful Senior Vice President, Government Affairs candidate will:

Develop and execute a comprehensive government affairs strategy (federal and state) that advances FSMB's priorities and enhances its influence and visibility in the regulatory and legislative space.

- Oversee and mentor a team of government relations consultants and advocacy staff, set strategic priorities, develop and manage the annual department budget, and develop government relations staff capacity and capabilities.
- Lead FSMB advocacy activities, including identifying opportunities (HHS grants/contracts) that promote FSMB products and services, preparing policy positions, testimony, comment letters, and reporting progress quarterly to the FSMB Board of Directors.
- Drive coalition building and partnerships with key stakeholders (FSMB member boards, national associations, consumer groups, and regulatory/legislative coalitions).
- Guide constituent interactions with Members of Congress and federal agencies, including arranging meetings with lawmakers and regulators in both Washington, DC, and in Congressional Districts, and overseeing FSMB's annual Hill Day.
- Monitor and analyze healthcare regulatory and legislative developments, including emerging issues such as telemedicine and artificial intelligence, healthcare workforce mobility, licensure compacts, non-traditional licensure schemes, and licensure portability.
- Support FSMB communications functions to ensure alignment of advocacy messaging, digital outreach, media, and public awareness as related to regulatory/policy issues.
- Represent FSMB in relevant national meetings, conferences, forums, and as an on-the-record spokesperson in national media.

Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives have been identified as priorities for this position:

- Demonstrate an ability to think long-term, anticipating issues that may have an impact on the organization and to leverage one's own political capital, personal connections, and reputation to build a broad base of support in a wide range of areas.
- Translate complex policy issues into strategic recommendations aligned with board-approved goals.
- Integrate departmental efforts with the organization's broader external and internal strategy.
- Ensure seamless coordination with leadership.
- Establish personal and professional credibility with all internal and external stakeholders and develop relationships based on trust, collaboration, and mutual support; be viewed as knowledgeable, highly engaged, effective, and visible.
- Develop a reputation as an exceptional communicator capable of developing productive relationships with national, state, and local officials, federal policymakers, and various other key stakeholder groups.
- Leverage a high degree of political intelligence and a keen understanding of the dynamics of national and state politics to ensure success within a highly regulated environment during times of significant change, uncertainty, and transformation.
- Ensure a strategic and proactive approach around tracking and monitoring legislation, regulations, sub-regulatory guidance, and other government actions, as well as various related initiatives.
- Demonstrate a natural comfort towards representing the organization with federal and state officials, legislators, and regulators
- Serve as the face of the organization for all lobbying efforts in Washington, DC.
- Represent the organization effectively at national meetings and industry events.
- Present regularly to the Board of Directors with polish and executive presence.
- Serve as a media spokesperson when the CEO or CPAO is unavailable.
- Build strong relationships with member boards and respond to complex policy questions (federal + state + regulatory trends).
- Carry the organization's strategy externally with credibility and authority.
- Provide coaching, performance management, and strategic direction to direct reports who handle state policy tracking, federal policy issues, and related areas.
- Evaluate existing team structure and workflows; identify opportunities to enhance effectiveness, collaboration, and strategic impact.
- Serve state medical boards by promoting regulatory best practices and providing operational resources that add to their effectiveness.

Candidate Qualifications

Knowledge and Work Experience

- Demonstrated success in federal and/or state legislative and/or regulatory outcomes.
- Experience working with or within professional associations, healthcare organizations, regulatory boards or agencies, or state or federal government is highly desirable.
- Proven record of building and leading high-performing teams in advocacy/government affairs.

Education

- A minimum of 10 years of progressively responsible experience in government affairs, legislative advocacy, regulatory affairs, or public policy.
- An advanced degree (J.D., M.P.H., M.P.P., M.P.A. or equivalent) is preferred.

The Community

Washington, DC

The District of Columbia is a mosaic of neighborhoods, from historic Capitol Hill and Georgetown to the Penn Quarter's arts scene to the 24/7 buzz of Adams Morgan. The banks of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers are flourishing with some of the capitol region's most exciting destinations for live music, sports, dining, and on-the-water activities.

Washington is known as a central hub for American history and politics. There are renowned, free museums and stunning memorials and monuments dedicated to America's leaders, but the District also is known as a great place to live and work. D.C. has more than 30 neighborhoods and is currently growing at a rate of 1.28% annually, and its population has increased by 19.77% since the 2010 census. It is known for its walkability and extensive public transportation system.

The Washington, D.C. Metro, one of the busiest public transportation systems in the country, connects all four quadrants of the city with suburban Virginia and Maryland and is a convenient way to navigate the region. Baltimore and Annapolis are within easy driving distance, as are other Maryland suburbs, and three major airports connect Washington with every major city in the U.S.

The U.S. News & World Report ranked D.C. as:

- #1 Best Historical Cities to Visit in the USA
- #2 Best East Coast Vacation Spots
- #15 Best Places to Visit in the USA
- #8 Best Family Vacations in the USA#6 Best Spring Break Family Vacations
- #6 Best Spring Break Family Vacations



Procedure for Candidacy

Please direct all nominations and applications to Werner Boel and Toni Davis through the WittKieffer Candidate Portal by clicking [here](#). Candidates can also find this portal via the WittKieffer website at www.wittkieffer.com and selecting Candidate Portal in the drop-down For Candidates menu.

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The expected base salary range is \$200,000 – 250,000. Salary offers will be commensurate with the selected candidate's qualifications and experience. In addition to salary, the Senior Vice President, Government Affairs, participates in FSMB's performance-based incentive program and is eligible for the broad range of excellent benefits that FSMB provides.

FSMB is proud to be an equal opportunity workplace. We are committed to equal employment opportunities for qualified applicants. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, or status as a protected veteran.

The material presented in this leadership profile should be relied on for informational purposes only. This material has been copied, compiled, or quoted in part from Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, Inc. documents and personal interviews and is believed to be reliable. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, the original source documents and factual situations govern.

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