

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

CL Report 1-17

INTRODUCED BY: Council on Legislation

SUBJECT: Review of 2017 Legislative Agenda

Every year the Legislative Council reviews the prior year's legislative agenda and decides which issues remain priority issues for the following year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. DEFEND THE SCOPE OF MEDICAL PRACTICE SO PATIENTS ARE SEEN BY A PHYSICIAN: MedChi will fight to ensure that all patients have access to physicians and that physician extenders have appropriate training and physician oversight. It is critical that patients have access to physicians and that non-physicians do not use increased demand for services to inappropriately increase their scope of practice.

Legislative Council Recommendation: **CONTINUE**

2. PROTECT MEDICAID AND THE UNINSURED: MedChi will work to incentivize physician participation and to protect the integrity of the Medicaid program, including continuing to advocate for full restoration of E&M payment to Medicare rates for all physicians who serve Medicaid enrollees.

Legislative Council Recommendation: **CONTINUE** what has not been accomplished. FY2018 budget maintains Medicaid E&M codes at 94% of Medicare.

3. DEFEND PHYSICIAN RIGHTS: Med Chi will work to protect Maryland's physicians by:

- Monitoring the regulatory and disciplinary actions of the Board of Physicians; **CONTINUE**
- Addressing delays in obtaining CDS licenses from the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene; **ACCOMPLISHED**
- Preventing workers compensation insurers from limiting a physician's right to dispense medications to an injured worker; **CONTINUE**
- Supporting continued efforts to address network adequacy and formulary practices;

CONTINUE; and

- Working to further standardize credentialing requirements. **CONTINUE**

Legislative Council Recommendation: **CONTINUE** advocacy on what has not been accomplished.

4. STRENGTHEN MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM: MedChi will continue to strongly oppose trial lawyer attempts to increase the “cap” on damages in medical malpractice cases and to abolish the defense of contributory negligence; support efforts to extend the “cap” on damages to physician assistants; establish a pilot project for specialized health courts and to limit repeated continuances in medical malpractice cases; and otherwise work to protect and strengthen the legal liability environment for physicians in Maryland.

Legislative Council Recommendation: **CONTINUE**

5. ENHANCE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT AND INSURANCE REFORM: MedChi will continue its efforts to improve Maryland’s payment climate by working to ensure that gain-sharing and other payment mechanisms for system reform are developed through a stakeholder process that includes broad physician participation and that will have a positive impact on physicians.

Legislative Council Recommendation: **CONTINUE**

6. PROTECTING MARYLAND’S CHILDREN: MedChi will support initiatives to protect children including initiatives to:

- Address childhood obesity including efforts to reduce the consumption of sugary beverages and other unhealthy food choices; **CONTINUE**
- Increase HPV immunization rates for children at the CDC recommended ages; **CONTINUE**
- Strengthen child safety seat and young driver laws; **CONTINUE**
- Address homelessness, affordable housing and its impact on public health; **CONTINUE;** and
- Require schools to provide parents with information about the risks of skin cancer and strategies and behaviors to reduce the risk. **CONTINUE**

Legislative Council Recommendation: **CONTINUE**

7. ENDING HEALTH DISPARITIES: MedChi will continue to support legislative and regulatory initiatives to reduce health disparities.

Legislative Council Recommendation: **CONTINUE**

8. MAKING MARYLAND A TOBACCO FREE STATE: MedChi will advocate for continued increases in the Tobacco Tax in order to discourage smoking and to help fund Medicaid and maintain and restore enhanced E&M payment for all physicians serving Medicaid enrollees. MedChi will also support legislation prohibiting the sale of tobacco products by businesses which provide health care or dispense medications.

Legislative Council Recommendation: **CONTINUE**

9. DRUG TRANSPARENCY: MedChi will support initiatives that address drug price transparency for name brand and generic pharmaceutical manufacturers and pharmacy benefit managers. **ACCOMPLISHED** by enactment of House Bill 631 (Chapter 818): *Public Health – Essential Off-Patent or Generic Drugs – Price Gouging – Prohibition*

Legislative Council Recommendation: **CONTINUE** advocacy on regulation of price increases under certain circumstances.

10. ANITBIOTIC RESISTANCE: MedChi will support initiatives that combat antimicrobial resistance by curbing routine use in food production.

Legislative Council Recommendation: **ACCOMPLISHED** by enactment of House Bill 602 (Chapter 787): *Keep Antibiotics Effective Act of 2017*.

As adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on September 23, 2017.