

2017

LEGISLATIVE & REGULATORY AGENDA

The mission of MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health. During the 2017 General Assembly Session, MedChi shall work on the following objectives:

AS AN ADVOCATE FOR PATIENTS

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.

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.

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

AS AN ADVOCATE FOR PHYSICIANS

DEFEND PHYSICIAN RIGHTS: MedChi will work to protect Maryland's physicians by:

- *Monitoring the regulatory and disciplinary actions of the Board of Physicians;*
- *Addressing delays in obtaining CDS licenses from the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene;*
- *Protecting and enhancing the integrity of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and its use by physicians;*
- *Preventing workers' compensation insurers from limiting a physician's right to dispense medications to an injured worker;*
- *Supporting continued efforts to address network adequacy and formulary practices; and*
- *Working to further standardize credentialing requirements.*

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.

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.

AS AN ADVOCATE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

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

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

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 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.

DRUG TRANSPARENCY: MedChi will support initiatives that address drug price transparency for name brand and generic pharmaceutical manufacturers and pharmacy benefit managers.

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

HOW DO I HELP CREATE POSITIVE LEGISLATIVE REFORM FOR PATIENTS, PHYSICIANS, AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH?

JOIN MEDCHI and your local component medical society at www.medchi.org.

JOIN YOUR COMPONENT SOCIETY in Annapolis by attending "Physician House Call on Annapolis" lobbying days for an opportunity to discuss important issues with your legislators. RSVP by emailing swisniewski@medchi.org.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES to discuss important issues with legislators.

STAY INFORMED on legislative issues affecting your practice and profession by reading MedChi's weekly e-newsletter, *MedChi News*, the quarterly magazine, *Maryland Medicine*, and visiting www.medchi.org. All members are welcome to attend the legislative council meetings.

EMAIL OR PHONE your delegates when MedChi or your component sends you a legislative alert about a bill. Visit the Legislative Action Center at www.medchi.org. Remember to donate to

the MMPAC and help keep physician-friendly legislation in Annapolis.

TESTIFY AT A COMMITTEE HEARING. Contact your component medical society for details.

VOLUNTEER TO SERVE. As Physician of the Day in the Maryland State House during the legislative session. Email swisniewski@medchi.org.