



## What is the Value of MedChi and Component Medical Society Membership?

### MedChi DELIVERED TO YOU THE FOLLOWING:

- Increased Medicaid Payment** By thousands of dollars and we are fighting to make Medicaid payment equal to Medicare.
- Up to \$90,000 Value Per Practice** Ensured that Maryland passed a State HIT incentive (the only state to do so) for primary care physicians.
- \$50 to \$500 Savings Per Physician** Stopped proposed tax on practitioners for the health insurance exchange.
- \$50 Savings Per Physician** Stopped proposed Board of Physicians' license increase.

**Cost of MedChi Membership?** Only \$500 (*still among the lowest membership dues in the U.S.*), including membership in a local medical society of the physician's choice and remember, a portion of your dues is tax deductible.

To learn about benefits and to join, visit [www.medchi.org](http://www.medchi.org), email [members@medchi.org](mailto:members@medchi.org) or call **1.800.492.1056**. Thank you for your continued support.

**SUGAR FREE KIDS MARYLAND**

*Sugar Free Kids is Maryland's foremost advocate for prevention of childhood obesity and type 2 diabetes. Led by MedChi, the American Heart Association, NAACP, The Maryland Association of Student Councils and The Horizon Foundation, Sugar Free Kids is working to make the healthy choice the easy choice by educating Marylanders about the twin epidemics and the role sugary drinks play in the crisis, in order to raise awareness, build a strong diverse coalition, and effect legislative change. For resources and details, visit [www.sugarfreekidsmd.org](http://www.sugarfreekidsmd.org).*

## What has MedChi done for me?

**MedChi**, The Maryland State Medical Society, is the only association representing all physicians in Maryland. Whether you run a solo practice or belong to a large group practice or hospital, MedChi is your organization devoted to protecting your interests and promoting your profession.

As the State's largest and most effective body representing physicians, MedChi strives to resolve significant professional concerns today while anticipating the challenges of tomorrow. MedChi and its components—medical societies in your county and Baltimore City—actively work to rebalance the legal and regulatory landscape to benefit you, your patients, and the public health.

Remember, we are here to meet your needs as your advocate, resource, and profession.



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[www.medchi.org](http://www.medchi.org)

**MedChi**

The Maryland State Medical Society

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# MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

## 2016 Legislative and Regulatory Agenda

The Voice of Maryland's Physicians

[www.medchi.org](http://www.medchi.org)



# Make an IMPACT!

Support your profession in Annapolis by donating to The Maryland Medical Political Action Committee (MMPAC). Help continue to achieve legislative victories in fighting for physicians' and patients' interests. Your contribution supports the following:

- Continues MedChi's successful efforts to maintain stable costs to physicians for malpractice insurance.
- Protects the longstanding cap on pain and suffering.
- Advocates for continued improvements in Maryland's public health agenda.
- Ensures that all patients have access to physicians and that nonphysician practice is consistent with appropriate training and physician oversight.

VISIT [WWW.MARYLANDMEDICALPAC.ORG](http://WWW.MARYLANDMEDICALPAC.ORG) FOR DETAILS.

\$50  \$100  Other Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  \$250-Annapolis Club. Receive a special Annapolis Club pin and acknowledgement on the MMPAC website.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Information  Check enclosed  Visa  MasterCard  American Express

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Call MedChi at 1.800.492.1056 and ask for the Membership Department, or email [members@medchi.org](mailto:members@medchi.org). Fax contributions to: 410.547.0915. For your security MedChi recommends that you do not submit credit card payment through the mail, but that you instead either fax or send these details through a secure attachment.

**Send contribution to Maryland Medical PAC, 224 Main Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.** Contributions or gifts to MMPAC are not tax deductible. By authority of George Malouf, Sr., M.D. - Treasurer

## How Do I Help Create Positive Legislative Reform for Physicians, Patients, and the Public Health?

- JOIN MEDCHI** and your local component medical society at [www.medchi.org](http://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](mailto: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 newsletter, *MedChi News*; the quarterly magazine, *Maryland Medicine*; and visiting [www.medchi.org](http://www.medchi.org). All members are welcome to attend the legislative council meetings.
- EMAIL OR PHONE YOUR SENATORS AND DELEGATES** when MedChi or your component sends you a legislative alert about a bill. Visit the Legislative Action Center at [www.medchi.org](http://www.medchi.org). Remember to donate to the MMPAC and help keep physician-friendly legislation in Annapolis.
- TESTIFY AT A COMMITTEE HEARING** by contacting 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](mailto:swisniewski@medchi.org).

**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 that provide health care or dispense medications.

**CLIMATE CHANGE:** MedChi will support the reauthorization of Maryland's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act consistent with the consensus recommendations of the Governor's Climate Change Commission regarding new goals and program structure. MedChi's advocacy will remain in accordance with AMA policy on Climate Change.

**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. MedChi will continue to support efforts to establish a pilot project for specialized health courts, limit repeated continuances in medical malpractice cases, and otherwise work to protect and strengthen the legal liability environment for physicians.

**ENHANCE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT AND INSURANCE REFORM:** MedChi will continue its efforts to improve Maryland's payment climate and reform insurance policies with these initiatives:

- *Work to assure that gain-sharing and other payment mechanisms for incentivizing broad system reform are developed through a stakeholder process that includes physician participation and results in a positive impact on physicians;*
- *Prevent insurance carriers from effectively reducing payment via credit cards; and*
- *Prevent workers compensation insurers from limiting a physician's right to dispense medications to an injured worker.*

## MedChi advocates for PUBLIC HEALTH

**PROTECTING MARYLAND'S CHILDREN:** MedChi will support the following initiatives to protect children:

- *Initiatives to increase HPV immunization rates for children as recommended by the CDC;*
- *Childhood obesity initiatives that propose to reduce the consumption of sugary beverages and other unhealthy food choices;*
- *Continued efforts to ban minors' use of commercial tanning beds; and*
- *Measures to strengthen child safety seat and young driver laws.*

## ENDING HEALTH DISPARITIES AND ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS:

MedChi will continue support of legislative and regulatory initiatives to reduce health disparities as well as initiatives to address homelessness, affordable housing and their impact on public health.

**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. TO THAT END, DURING THE 2016 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION, MEDCHI WILL STRIVE FOR SUCCESS ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:**

## MedChi advocates 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. Individuals newly insured through ACA implementation have placed unprecedented demands on the health care system as they seek medical care. It is critical that patients have access to physicians and that non-physicians do not use increased demand 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 advocating for full restoration of E&M payment to Medicare rates for all physicians who serve Medicaid enrollees.

**ADDRESS NETWORK ADEQUACY:** MedChi will support efforts to enhance the requirements and accountability of insurers with respect to adequate provider networks, the accuracy of provider directories, and fair formulary practices.

## MedChi advocates for PHYSICIANS

**DEFEND PHYSICIAN RIGHTS:** MedChi will work to protect Maryland's physicians through the following:

- *Addressing laws that direct physician license fees to other programs;*
- *Monitoring the regulatory and disciplinary actions of the Board of Physicians;*
- *Addressing delays in obtaining CDS licenses from the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene; and*
- *Protecting and enhancing the integrity of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and its use by physicians.*