



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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SIGNIFICANT STRIDES MADE IN HEALTHCARE BY MEDCHI AFTER REMARKABLE 2024 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

ANNAPOLIS, April 17, 2024 — MedChi’s advocacy efforts on behalf of patients and physicians clearly paid off this past legislative session. Chief among their achievements was the successful prohibition of non-compete clauses in contracts for physicians earning \$350,000/year or less. For those physicians earning more than \$350,000/year, non-complete clauses may not exceed one year and 10 miles from the primary place of employment. [*House Bill 1388 – Labor Employment – Noncompete and Conflict of Interest Clauses –Veterinary and Health Care Professionals*](#) provides crucial reforms to ensure smoother transitions for health care professionals changing practices, thereby minimizing adverse effects on patients.

Other notable achievements made during this demanding and remarkable legislative session included:

- Significant progress continued to be made in curbing insurance companies' abuse of prior authorization through the passage of *Senate Bill 791/House Bill 932: Health Insurance – Utilization Review – Revisions*. This legislation establishes robust protections against unjust prior authorization practices within State law and provides more transparent utilization review processes. MedChi President [Ben Lowentritt MD FACS](#) commended MedChi and all the stakeholders involved who “have made the commitment to support patients’ health and wellness by reducing or eliminating the bureaucratic hurdles that patients encounter so that they can receive the care, the medications, and the screenings that they need”.
- Various tort measures were actively opposed which resulted in the successful prevention of alterations to the cap on non-economic damages for personal injury cases. Non-economic damages caps are tort reforms that limit -- or "cap" --- damages in lawsuits for subjective, non-pecuniary harms such as pain, suffering, inconvenience, emotional distress, loss of society and companionship, and loss of enjoyment of life. MedChi also worked on halting a bill that would have paved the way for the removal of contributory negligence as a defense.

A complete detailed report of MedChi’s activities during the session and the measures we worked on can be found [here](#).

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients, and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.