



The Maryland State Medical Society

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MEDCHI RELEASES 2018 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Op-ed by Dr. Sarah Merritt

MedChi will work on a wide range of objectives during the 2018 General Assembly Session. These legislative goals are in line with the mission of MedChi -- to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients, and the public health.

As an advocate for patients, MedChi will promote physician, resident and medical student education regarding the opioid crisis in Maryland and the services available for patients through the HOPE Act. MedChi will work to incentivize physician participation in the Medicaid program and will continue to advocate for full restoration of E&M payment to Medicare rates for all physicians who serve Medicaid enrollees.

As an advocate for physicians, MedChi will work to defend physician rights by monitoring the regulatory and disciplinary actions of the Board of Physicians, protecting and enhancing the integrity of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and its use by physicians, supporting continued efforts to address network adequacy and formulary practices, and working to further standardize credentialing requirements. MedChi will also work to strengthen medical liability reform and enhance physician payment and insurance reform.

As an advocate for public health, MedChi will focus on ending health disparities, making Maryland a tobacco free state, addressing drug transparency, supporting HIV prevention, and expanding Maryland's crisis treatment centers. MedChi will focus on protecting Maryland's children with initiatives including: addressing childhood obesity, increasing HPV immunization rates, strengthening child safety seat and young driver laws, addressing homelessness and affordable housing, and banning minors access to tanning beds.

The complete 2018 Legislative Agenda can be found at www.medchi.org.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. 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.