



The Maryland State Medical Society

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MEDCHI RELEASES 2019 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

BALTIMORE, December 17, 2018 – MedChi will work on a wide range of objectives during the 2019 General Assembly Session. As the statewide professional association for licensed physicians, we are dedicated to our mission to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients, and the public health. These objectives are in line with the mission of MedChi.

MedChi will work to protect access to physician services. In order to do this, MedChi will advocate that the Fiscal Year 2020 Medicaid budget fund E&M reimbursement rates be equal to the Medicare program to better support physician participation in the Medicaid program and ensure that Medicaid patients have equal access to physician services; oppose policies that would adversely affect patient care by inappropriately expanding the scope of practice of non-physician providers beyond their education and training; fight initiatives to weaken Maryland's current medical liability environment and jeopardize Maryland's Total Cost of Care Model; and protect the ability of physicians to dispense medications to patients, including allowing "prepackaged topicals" to be dispensed without the need for a permit.

Another goal of MedChi is to ensure timely delivery of health care services. MedChi will support policies that promote greater efficiency and transparency of health insurance and that reduces administrative burdens on patients and physicians; improve Maryland's payment climate by ensuring that gain-sharing and other mechanisms for system reform include broad physician participation and provide appropriate physician incentives; support initiatives that address drug price transparency for name brand and generic pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmacy benefit managers, and insurers; and support continued efforts to address network adequacy and formulary practices and further standardize credentialing requirements.

MedChi will also focus on protecting the practice of medicine by monitoring the regulatory and disciplinary actions of the Board of Physicians and support legislation altering the disciplinary process and working to further examine credentialing requirements to ensure fairness.

MedChi will advocate to address behavioral health treatment and recovery needs. We will push for expansion of Maryland's crisis treatment centers throughout the State and address access to care barriers for behavioral health treatment; to protect and enhance the integrity of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and its use by physicians as a

prescribing tool; and support the establishment of innovative approaches to addressing the opioid crisis such as the establishment of a pilot supervised injection facility.

Lastly, MedChi will work to strengthen public health initiatives. MedChi will invest in programs to address health disparities and the social determinants of health. We will also advocate for a broad range of initiatives focusing on child health and safety, including lowering the threshold of intervention for lead exposure; increasing HPV immunization rates for children at the CDC recommended ages; educating parents on the risks of skin cancer and strategies to reduce the risk; preventing the separation of children from their caregivers absent a threat of a child's well-being; and limiting authorization of non-security personnel in schools to bring, store or discharge firearms at schools.

The complete 2019 Legislative Agenda can be found at www.medchi.org/youradvocate.

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.