

2022

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY VICTORIES

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.



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FOR THE 2022 MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE SESSION, **MEDCHI** ACHIEVED SIGNIFICANT VICTORIES ON BEHALF OF ALL MARYLAND PHYSICIANS AND PATIENTS:

MEDCHI PROTECTED ACCESS TO PHYSICIAN SERVICES AND THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

- Successfully secured funding in the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget that restores Medicaid E&M reimbursement codes to 100% of Medicare.
- Successfully increased funding of the Physician Loan Assistance Repayment Program (LARP). Not only did the initial Fiscal Year 2023 Budget contain \$1.4 million for LARP, but the amount was increased in a supplemental budget by \$3 million for a total allocation in the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget of \$4.4 million. Fully funding LARP is a powerful tool at the state's disposal to ensure patient access to physicians in every part of Maryland.
- Defeated legislation that would adversely affect patient care by inappropriately expanding the scope of practice of non-physicians beyond their education and training, including the ability to diagnose, treat, prescribe medications and/or manage medical disorders, or refer to themselves as physicians.

MEDCHI ADDRESSED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT AND RECOVERY NEEDS

- Successfully lobbied to establish a Suicide Fatality Review Committee to assist the State of Maryland in addressing the increasing incidences of suicide. The committee is charged with developing initiatives that will prevent suicide by addressing identified contributing factors.
- Successfully worked to establish the 9-8-8 Trust Fund for the purpose of providing reimbursement for costs associated with designating and maintaining 9-8-8 as the universal telephone number for a national suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline.
- Increased access to opioid reversal medications by allowing community service programs, such as homeless service programs, outpatient treatment programs, local health departments, and other community-based organizations to offer FDA approved medications free of charge.
- Protected settlement funds from opioid related litigation to ensure they are used to prevent overdoses and provide addiction treatment.

MEDCHI ENSURED TIMELY DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND PAYMENT

- Protected physicians who choose to enter into two-sided incentive arrangements with insurance carriers by ensuring the arrangements are voluntary, transparent, and limit risk. Maryland now has the strongest protections in the nation for physicians entering it to value-based care arrangements with insurers.

MEDCHI PROTECTED THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

- Defeated legislation that would allow podiatrists to be identified as physicians.
- Blocked legislation that would have removed physicians from the Audiology Board.

MEDCHI STRENGTHENED PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

Thanks to MedChi, Medicaid will now provide:

- Dental care for adults.
- Substance use disorder services for minors.
- Coverage for pregnant women who are non-citizens.
- Coverage for home blood pressure monitoring.

