

# 2019 *Legislative and Regulatory Victories*



## MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

### PROTECT ACCESS TO PHYSICIAN SERVICES

- MedChi worked closely with the Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons to protect patients from harmful surgical expansion while allowing for appropriate optometric scope of practice expansion
- Successfully stopped naturopaths from gaining prescribing authority, a practice that is rightfully restricted to physicians who have completed residency
- After an initial proposal that would decrease Medicaid rates, MedChi successfully secured an additional \$4.76 million for Medicaid E&M rates at 93% of Medicare
- Protected expert witness qualifications and reached a compromise to safeguard the expert witness 25% rule
- Successfully eased administrative burdens to allow physicians to dispense topical medications under a streamlined permit

### ENSURE TIMELY DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

- Successfully strengthened Maryland's prior authorization laws to provide greater continuity of care for patients and increased transparency
- Introduced and successfully passed legislation to protect patients from mid-year insurance formulary changes
- Advocated successfully for sensible guidelines for the establishment of the Prescription Drug Affordability Board

### ADDRESS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT AND RECOVERY NEEDS

- Collaborated with the Maryland Hospital Association, Maryland Dental Society, Maryland Nurses Association, and Maryland Department of Health to enhance the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) while protecting its integrity by opposing legislation that would have allowed unfettered access to PDMP data by outside entities

### STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

- Successfully supported legislation to increase the minimum age for the purchase of tobacco products and electronic smoking devices to 21 years of age
- Effectively advocated to clarify current law with respect to minor's rights to consent to prevention for HIV or PReP
- Supported successful legislation to restrict tanning bed access for minors
- Strengthened the maternal mortality review and recommendation process
- Successfully lobbied for redefined lead level guidelines



read our full legislative report:

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



@medchiupdates



@medchiupdates



facebook.com/MedChiupdates

**Your Advocate. Your Resource. Your Profession.**