

# 2023 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY PRIORITIES

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.



*"The 2022 General Assembly Session was a highly successful time of physician and patient advocacy. As we look ahead to the 2023 session, we will continue our efforts to ensure that Maryland is the best place to practice medicine and be a patient."*

Clement Banda, MD  
Co-Chair, MedChi Council on Legislation



*"MedChi's Council on Legislation provides the framework for accessible, robust, science-informed debate on the issues that impact Maryland's physicians and patients. Our process ensures that physicians of all specialties, modes of practice, and career stages have a seat at the table and a powerful voice in Annapolis."*

Kathleen D. Keeffe Hough, MD  
Co-Chair, MedChi Council on Legislation

# MedChi

*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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**Anuradha Reddy, MD**

Chair, MedChi Health Insurance Subcommittee

*Every physician is impacted by the insurance market, and our Health Insurance Subcommittee serves as your advocate for ensuring that legislation is physician-friendly and practice-sustaining.*

**Kathleen D. Keffe Hough, MD**

Chair, MedChi Public Health Subcommittee

*The Public Health Subcommittee provides expertise on issues that directly impact our patients, our communities, and our state.*

**Lawrence Green, MD**

Chair, MedChi Boards & Commissions Subcommittee

*The regulatory environment greatly impacts the practice of medicine, and MedChi's Boards and Commissions Subcommittee is your voice of impact.*

**ENSURING TIMELY DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND PAYMENT**

- Advocate for initiatives that streamline and reform utilization management policies (i.e., prior authorization and step therapy laws) in both the commercial market and in Medicaid to reduce administrative burdens and increase transparency.
- Ensure that physicians and health care practitioners are not inappropriately excluded from participating on insurance panels.
- Support policies to ensure that women have equal access to breast cancer diagnostic examinations and evaluations without cost sharing.
- Address network adequacy and the further standardization of credentialing requirements.
- Advocate that the Fiscal Year 2024 Medicaid budget maintain E&M reimbursement rates to 100% of Medicare to support physician participation in the program and ensure that Medicaid patients have adequate access to physician services.
- Work to create fair and appropriate policies and procedures for Medicaid payment seizures.

**PROTECTING ACCESS TO PHYSICIAN SERVICES AND THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE**

- Oppose policies that would adversely affect patient care by inappropriately expanding the scope of practice of non-physician providers, including the ability to independently diagnose, treat, prescribe medications, and/or manage medical disorders.
- Seek state funding for the Loan Assistance Repayment Program (LARP), which provides loan repayment to primary care physicians working in underserved areas, so as to encourage more physicians to practice in those areas.
- Fight initiatives that seek to weaken Maryland's current medical liability environment and jeopardize the *Total Cost of Care Model*, including increasing the "cap" on damages in malpractice cases.
- Monitor the regulatory and disciplinary actions of the Board of Physicians.
- Ensure that the Board's disciplinary process is transparent and that the laws governing the Board provide for accountability, including the adoption of a requirement that the physician complaint form includes a penalty of perjury for false allegations.

**ADDRESSING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT AND RECOVERY NEEDS**

- Advocate for expansion of Maryland's crisis treatment centers and address access to care barriers for behavioral health services.
- Support innovative approaches to addressing the opioid crisis, such as a pilot program of supervised injection facilities.
- Support the continued establishment of partnerships between police and mental health professionals to ensure the appropriate response to individuals in a behavioral health crisis.
- Advocate for comprehensive behavioral health reform that addresses system deficiencies.

**STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES**

- Continue to support health equity initiatives that address health disparities and the social determinants of health.
- Support policies which increase access for all Marylanders (regardless of immigration status) to free or low-cost health care plans through initiatives that automatically enroll individuals in coverage and/or provide individual or small employer subsidies to enhance affordability.
- Advocate for public health and safety initiatives including improving child immunization rates; developing enhanced health education programs; developing health workforce mentorship programs; prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products; ensuring equitable access to public transportation; and supporting the development of evidenced-based occupational safety regulations for heat-related illness.
- Support initiatives that preserve access to reproductive health services consistent with AMA policy.

