

# 2024 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.



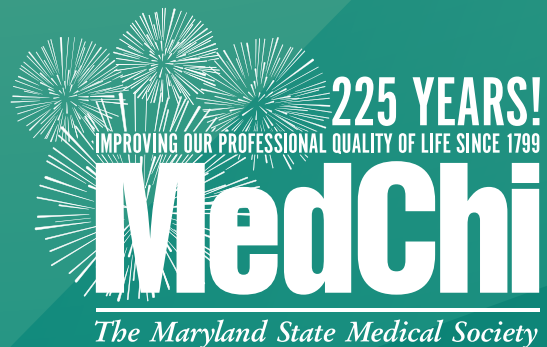
*"The 2023 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session was a highly successful time for physician and patient advocacy. As we look ahead to the 2024 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session, we will continue our efforts to ensure that Maryland is the best place to practice medicine and be a patient."*

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



*"MedChi's Council on Legislation provides the framework for debate on the issues that impact Maryland's physicians and patients. Our process ensures that physicians will always have a seat at the table and a powerful voice in Annapolis."*

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



@medchiupdates



facebook.com/medchiupdates



@medchiupdates



Chair, MedChi Health Insurance Subcommittee

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



Chair, MedChi Public Health Subcommittee

*"Advocating for public health is one of the core values of MedChi. Public health has proven to be one of the most critical factors impacting Marylanders. MedChi has excelled in being a trusted resource for public health issues in Maryland."*



Chair, MedChi Boards & Commissions Subcommittee

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

### **MEDCHI WILL WORK TO ENSURE THE TIMELY DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND PAYMENT BY ADVOCATING TO:**

- Streamline and reform utilization management policies (i.e., prior authorization and step therapy laws) to reduce administrative burdens that harm physicians and their patients.
- Maintain E&M reimbursement rates at no less than the current funding levels to ensure that Medicaid patients have adequate access to physician services.
- Keep the Maryland Primary Care Program in the Maryland Total Cost of Care Model.
- Support the Episode Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) by increasing access to EQIP for all specialties.
- Incorporate patient protections into the Total Cost of Care Model.

### **MEDCHI WILL PROTECT ACCESS TO PHYSICIAN SERVICES AND THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE BY ADVOCATING TO:**

- Oppose the inappropriate expansion of non-physician scope of practice.
- Find workable funding options for the Maryland Loan Assistance Repayment Program.
- Fight initiatives to weaken Maryland's current medical liability environment and increase non-economic damages "caps".
- Ensure transparency and accountability in the regulatory and disciplinary actions of the Maryland Board of Physicians.
- Increase participation in and evaluate expansion of Maryland's Preceptor Tax Credit Program.
- Support employer efforts to correct income disparities based on gender under the Maryland Equal Pay for Equal Work Act.
- Ban non-compete clauses in physician contracts or limit the scope and/or duration of restrictive covenants.

### **MEDCHI WILL ADDRESS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT AND RECOVERY NEEDS BY ADVOCATING TO:**

- Expand Maryland's crisis treatment centers.
- Support efforts to ensure the appropriate response to individuals facing a behavioral health crisis.
- Advocate for comprehensive behavioral health reform that addresses current system deficiencies.

### **MEDCHI WILL STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES BY ADVOCATING TO:**

- Increase access for all Marylanders to free or low-cost health care plans through initiatives that automatically enroll individuals in coverage.
- Support increased funding and resources for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to enhance its effectiveness.
- Address health disparities and social determinants of health.
- Expand funding for menstrual products and allow them to be purchased through public assistance programs.
- Increase immunization rates for children.
- Prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco.

