

**PROTECT PATIENTS AND PHYSICIANS THROUGH
PASSAGE OF “ANY WILLING PRACTITIONER”
LEGISLATION**

PROBLEM:

Commercial insurers and Medicaid managed care organizations are limiting participation in provider panels by either precluding physicians or other practitioners from joining or not renewing current contracts. This harms patients by limiting choice or causing them to switch to other physicians or practitioners when their physician or practitioner is either precluded from joining a network or is not renewed for participation absent any wrongdoing.

BACKGROUND:

“Any Willing Practitioner” statutes (also referred to as “any willing provider”) are laws that prohibit insurance carriers from limiting membership within their provider networks based upon geography or other characteristics, so long as a provider is willing and able to meet the conditions of network membership set by the carrier. According to the National Council of State Legislatures, approximately twenty-seven states have laws governing AWP statutes. These laws vary in scope and may be broad-based to apply to all licensed practitioners in the state or be more limited to apply to only certain practitioners.

SOLUTION:

Support MedChi legislation to prohibit insurance carriers, including managed care organizations, from limiting membership within their networks if the physician agrees to provide health care services in a manner that meets the terms and conditions established by the carrier or managed care organization and agrees to the terms of reimbursement established by the carrier or the managed care organization.

WHAT TO DO:

- Call/e-mail your legislator(s) and members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee and ask them for their support for passing an “any willing practitioner” statute.
- To email your district legislator(s), go to [Members - Find My Representatives \(maryland.gov\)](https://www.maryland.gov/members).
- For contact information for members of the Senate Finance Committee and the House Health and Government Operations Committee, contact Chip O’Neil at coneil@medchi.org.