

News: For Immediate Release Additional Information Contact: Gene M. Ransom, CEO Office: 410-539-0872 x 3305

MEDCHI RELEASES 2025 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

BALTIMORE, December 16, 2024 – As the statewide professional association for physicians, MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is dedicated to our mission to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients, and the public health. MedChi intends to tackle a wide range of objectives for the 2025 General Assembly Session that are in line with this mission. As Padmini Ranasinghe, M.D., MedChi President, aptly states, "Advocacy is non-negotiable in medicine. As physicians, so much of our work is impacted by legislation and regulation. We must ensure that the physician voice is heard when health is deliberated in our state."

During the 2025 Session, MedChi will place particular emphasis on the importance of maintaining a reasonable medical professional liability environment to safeguard access to care for all Marylanders. And MedChi will focus on advocating for the improvement of Medicaid payment to address physician shortages and ensure equitable access to care for Maryland's most vulnerable populations. As MedChi CEO, Gene Ransom, explained, "MedChi believes that Medicaid parity with Medicare payment is an equity issue, and we need to make sure that every Medicaid patient has access to a physician."

MedChi's top priorities for the 2025 Session also include the following initiatives:

- Supporting reforms to hold health insurers accountable for improper decisions that delay or prevent the timely treatment of health care services
- Fighting initiatives that would weaken Maryland's current medical liability environment, including repealing or increasing non-economic damages caps
- Advocating for policies to ensure that individuals have access to behavioral health treatment in the most appropriate setting
- Opposing measures to expand the scope of practice of non-physician healthcare practitioners beyond their education and training
- Protecting the interests of physicians and patients in the new Maryland AHEAD
 Model by ensuring greater and more equitable primary care participation and
 increasing access to the Episode Quality Improvement Program for all specialties
- Supporting policies that assist physicians in the operation of private practices and ensure that regulatory and disciplinary actions of the Board of Physicians are fair and just
- Promoting public health and safety initiatives that address health equity and social determinants of health

The complete 2025 Legislative Agenda can be found <u>here</u>.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. It is the largest physician organization in Maryland. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.