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MEDCHI ANNOUNCES LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR THE 2026 MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

BALTIMORE, December 22, 2025 – MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, announces its legislative priorities for the 2026 Session of the Maryland General Assembly, reaffirming its commitment to strengthening Maryland’s health care system and protecting the ability of physicians to care for their patients.

“The connection between health care and public policy is clearer than ever,” says Eric Wargotz, M.D., MedChi President. “So much of what physicians do is shaped by legislation and regulation that directly impacts our patients and our ability to practice. It is essential that the physician’s voice is present and informed whenever health policy is being discussed.”

During the upcoming legislative session, MedChi’s key legislative priorities include:

- **Holding Health Insurers Accountable**

MedChi will propose reforms to laws governing health insurance companies that delay patient care and allow insurers, not physicians, to determine what care is appropriate. Unnecessary credentialing delays prevent providers from joining insurer networks, and billing practices that enable insurers to reduce billed charges cause physicians to spend more time on administrative tasks than on patient care. Our legislation will tackle these problems.

- **Strengthening Medicaid and Access to Care**

MedChi will safeguard Maryland’s investment in Medicaid by making sure payments to providers are set at rates that encourage their participation. Evaluation & Management (E&M) payment rates should be 100% of Medicare E&M rates to ensure access to care for all Marylanders.

- **Protecting Maryland’s Medical Liability Environment**

MedChi will fight efforts to weaken current liability protections for health care providers, such as legislation that repeals or increases non-economic damages caps, or that lowers standards for awarding punitive damages. Exposing physicians to higher damage awards increases their malpractice insurance costs and only worsens the State’s severe physician shortage.

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. 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.