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STATE MEDICAL SOCIETIES LEAD CHARGE; URGE CONGRESS NOT TO CUT MEDICAID

BALTIMORE, March 10, 2025 — All fifty State Medical Societies including MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, have signed on to a letter that urges the <u>U.S. House</u> <u>of Representatives</u> and <u>U.S. Senate</u> to protect Medicaid from the proposed \$880 billion House Energy and Commerce Committee spending reduction target.

For decades, Medicaid has been the safety net for the most vulnerable patients – children, pregnant women, seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and low-income, working families. Enacting these cuts would cause millions of Medicaid patients to lose their coverage and it is expected that they would also lose some of their existing benefits and access to essential health care services. Once patients lose coverage, their health conditions will worsen, and the financial burden will shift to the states, physicians, emergency rooms, hospitals, and all other patients.

Medicaid cuts will have a negative impact on the entire health care system. As patients lose Medicaid coverage and access to care, more rural hospitals, physician practices, clinics, and nursing homes will be forced to close. These closures will lead to a substantial number of health care workers losing their jobs. As costs are shifted out of Medicaid, all insured patients across the health care system will experience higher insurance premiums. These cuts will also place incredible pressure on patients and state budgets, and states will be forced to choose between cutting services or raising taxes because states will not be able to absorb these increased costs.

As a society of physicians, our obligation is to care for all those who need us – sick children, people with disabilities, seniors in nursing homes, veterans, and those with chronic conditions, mental health, and other special needs.

MedChi CEO, Gene Ransom, stated "MedChi is committed to finding solutions to protect and improve Medicaid for generations to come. Medicaid funding cuts threaten patient care, coverage, and the viability of our entire health care system."

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 <u>www.medchi.org</u>.