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MEDCHI RELEASES 2021 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

BALTIMORE, December 29, 2020 – MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, has released its 2021 Legislative Agenda which seeks to address a wide range of issues for the 2021 General Assembly Session.

MedChi will uphold its commitment to protect access to physician services and the practice of medicine. As MedChi President Shannon Pryor, MD, states: “MedChi is in the trenches every day, advocating for the needs of all Maryland physicians --- both members and non-members, and our patients. In critical times such as these, MedChi has proven to be a strong and effective voice of reason focused on improving physicians’ ability to provide the best possible medical care for our patients.”

Among the issues that MedChi follows, the list below will be top priorities in 2021:

- MedChi will advocate for maintaining Evaluation and Management (E&M) reimbursement rates at the current level for the fiscal year 2022 Medicaid budget. This encourages physician participation in the program and ensures that Medicaid patients have access to medical services.
- MedChi will fight initiatives to weaken Maryland’s current medical liability environment and those that jeopardize Maryland’s Total Cost of Care Model, including increasing the “cap” on damages in medical malpractice cases or diminishing the immunity protections resulting from a proclaimed catastrophic public health emergency.
- MedChi will support initiatives that ensure access to medical care by telephone or virtual visits. MedChi seeks to require that third-party payors recognize *telemedicine* as being equal in value to in-person visits.
- MedChi will support innovative ideas and methods for addressing the opioid crisis.
- MedChi is in favor of health equity initiatives, particularly those that require hospitals and health care systems to develop a comprehensive health equity plan that will address health disparities and the social determinants of health.

The complete 2021 Legislative Agenda can be found at <https://www.medchi.org/Law-and-Advocacy/Testimony-Positions-Archives>.

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.