

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

CL Report 1-20

INTRODUCED BY: Council on Legislation

SUBJECT: Review of 2020 Legislative Agenda

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Every year the Legislative Council reviews the prior year's legislative agenda and decides which issues remain priority issues for the following year.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

**PROTECTING ACCESS TO PHYSICIAN SERVICES AND THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE**

- Advocating that the Fiscal Year 2021 Medicaid budget fund E&M reimbursement rates equal to the Medicare program to better support physician participation in the Medicaid program and ensure that Medicaid patients have adequate access to physician services. **CONTINUE**
- Opposing policies that would adversely affect patient care by inappropriately expanding the scope of practice of non-physician providers beyond their education and training, including the ability to independently diagnose, treat, and/or manage medical disorders or refer to themselves as physicians. **CONTINUE**
- Fighting initiatives to weaken Maryland's current medical liability environment and jeopardize Maryland's Total Cost of Care Model, including increasing the "cap" on damages in medical malpractice cases. **CONTINUE**

**ENSURING TIMELY DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND PAYMENT**

- Supporting initiatives that promote greater transparency of utilization management and physician rating system policies used by health insurance carriers and working to lessen the administrative burdens placed on physician offices for authorizing services and obtaining payment for services. **CONTINUE**
- Improving Maryland's payment climate by ensuring that gain-sharing and other mechanisms for system reform include broad physician participation and provide appropriate physician incentives. **CONTINUE**
- Working to address administrative challenges faced by physicians in querying, accessing and submitting data to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and Immunet. **CONTINUE**
- Supporting initiatives that address drug price transparency for name brand and generic

pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmacy benefit managers and insurers. **CONTINUE**

- Supporting continued efforts to address network adequacy and further standardizing credentialing requirements. **CONTINUE**
- Protecting the ability of physicians to dispense medications to patients and to prepare medications in physicians' offices without being subject to unreasonable and burdensome equipment and process requirements. **CONTINUE**

## **PROTECTING THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE**

- Monitoring the regulatory and disciplinary actions of the Board of Physicians to ensure the proper treatment of physicians. **CONTINUE**
- Working to ensure that Maryland licensed physicians who practice integrative medicine appropriately are treated fairly by the Board of Physicians. **ACCOMPLISHED**  
  
\* **2020** Legislation was enacted that specified that the professional board cannot act against a practitioner "solely" because they use integrative methods but that the standard of care must still be observed.
- Ensuring that actions of the Board and its staff during the disciplinary process are transparent and that the laws governing the Board provide for accountability. **CONTINUE**

## **ADDRESSING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT AND RECOVERY NEEDS**

- Advocating for expansion of Maryland's crisis treatment centers throughout the State and addressing access to care barriers for behavioral health services. **CONTINUE**
- Protecting the integrity of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and its use by physicians as a prescribing tool. **CONTINUE**
- Supporting innovative approaches to addressing the opioid crisis, such as the establishment of a pilot supervised injection facility. **CONTINUE**

## **STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES**

- Investing in programs to address health disparities and the social determinants of health, including efforts on homelessness and affordable housing, encouraging needle exchange sites throughout Maryland, and providing education and referral for consideration for HIV PrEP. **CONTINUE**
- Advocating for a broad range of child health and safety initiatives, including repealing the religious exemption for immunizations, requiring background checks and gun safety educational courses for long guns, increasing HPV immunization rates for children at the CDC recommended ages; and requiring that all school personnel receive the seasonal influenza vaccine annually unless medically contraindicated. **CONTINUE**