



The Maryland State Medical Society

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MEDCHI RELEASES ITS 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

BALTIMORE, January 19, 2016 – This year MedChi will work on a wide range of objectives during the 2016 General Assembly Session. These legislative goals are in line with the mission of MedChi -- to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients, and the public health. Among other numerous items that will be tackled this session, MedChi will be improving Medicaid funding, fighting the trial lawyers, and improving network adequacy.

MedChi will work to protect the integrity of the Medicaid program, including the protection of enhanced E&M payment for all physicians who serve Medicaid enrollees. MedChi will also work to ensure that Medicaid can continue to serve the significant number of newly enrolled patients and that an adequate safety net remains for individuals who remain uninsured.

Gene Ransom, MedChi CEO, states "Medicaid payment cuts create significant barriers to patient access and ultimately increase the cost of care as people are driven by the lack of outpatient alternatives to seek treatment in more expensive locations such as emergency rooms. The tremendous increase in enrollment that has occurred with the implementation of federal health care reform makes retention of parity reimbursement essential."

MedChi will continue to strongly oppose trial lawyer attempts to increase the cap on damages in medical malpractice cases and to abolish the defense of contributory negligence; to support efforts to establish a pilot project for specialized health courts; and to limit repeated continuances in medical malpractice cases, and otherwise work to protect and strengthen the legal liability environment for physicians in Maryland.

MedChi will work to address network adequacy by supporting efforts to enhance the requirements and accountability of insurers with respect to adequate provider networks, the accuracy of provider directories, and fair formulary practices. MedChi will also address numerous other public health issues and issues affecting your practice. The complete 2016 Legislative Agenda can be found at www.medchi.org.

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.