



The Maryland State Medical Society

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MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY, RELEASES 2024 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

BALTIMORE, January 5, 2024 – As the statewide professional association for licensed physicians, MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is dedicated to our mission to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients, and the public health. In keeping with this mission, MedChi will address a wide range of objectives for the upcoming 2024 General Assembly Session.

MedChi will uphold its commitment to protect access to physician services and the practice of medicine. MedChi Board President Ben Lowentritt, M.D. adds that “much of MedChi’s legislative advocacy priorities are driven by our efforts to reduce physician stress by easing administrative burdens such as prior authorization.” Advocating for programs that allow all Marylanders to have access to health care coverage also remains a priority.

Among the issues that MedChi follows, the list below will be top priorities in 2024:

ENSURE TIMELY DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE AND PAYMENT

- Advocate for initiatives that streamline and reform utilization management policies (i.e., prior authorization and step therapy laws) in both the commercial market and in Medicaid to reduce administrative burdens and increase transparency;
- Advocate that the Fiscal Year 2025 Medicaid budget maintain E&M reimbursement rates to 100% of Medicare to support physician participation in the program;
- Ensure that the Maryland Primary Care Program is kept in the Maryland Total Cost of Care Model;
- Support the Episode Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) by expanding access to EQIP for all specialties.

PROTECT ACCESS TO PHYSICIAN SERVICES AND THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

- Oppose policies that would inappropriately expand the scope of practice of non-physician providers beyond their education and training, including the ability to diagnose, treat, prescribe medications and/ or manage medical disorders;

- Find workable funding options for the MD Loan Assistance Repayment Program, which provides loan repayment to physicians working in underserved areas;
- Fight initiatives to weaken Maryland’s current medical liability environment and increase the “caps” on non-economic damages;
- Ensure transparency and accountability in the regulatory and disciplinary actions of the Maryland Board of Physicians.

ADDRESS BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT AND RECOVERY NEEDS

- Advocate for expansion of Maryland’s crisis treatment centers;
- Support efforts to ensure the appropriate response to individuals facing a behavioral health crisis;
- Advocate for comprehensive behavioral health reform that addresses current system deficiencies.

STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

- Increase access for all Marylanders to free or low-cost health care plans through initiatives that automatically enroll individuals in coverage;
- Support increased funding and resources for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to augment its effectiveness;
- Address health disparities and social determinants of health;
- Expand funding for menstrual products and allow them to be purchased through public assistance programs;
- Increase immunization rates for children;
- Prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco.

The complete 2024 Legislative Agenda can be found [here](#).

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.