



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release

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MEDCHI MEMBERS VOTE TO SUPPORT PROPOSAL TO EXPAND ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE IN MARYLAND

BALTIMORE, December 12, 2022 — MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, voted to support the [Health Care for all Resolution](#), put forth by [Maryland Citizens Health Initiative](#), by a unanimous vote at its recent annual House of Delegates meeting. At this meeting, MedChi set policy on several issues, one of which was the adoption of this critical resolution.

Gene Ransom, MedChi CEO, states “MedChi supports and believes that access to affordable health care is a basic human right of which all are deserving. We are pleased that Maryland is working on a plan that would make us the first state to achieve this lofty goal.”

The resolution calls for MedChi to support the following:

- Automatically enrolling all Marylanders eligible for free or very low-cost health care plans in health care coverage except for those who opt out; and
- Creating state-based individual and small employer subsidy programs to improve the affordability of private coverage to uninsured Marylanders, including through plans from Maryland Health Connection; and
- Removing immigration status as a barrier to health coverage for Marylanders who would otherwise be eligible to enroll in Medicaid or private health plans from Maryland Health Connection.

MedChi believes that all Marylanders deserve access to high-quality, affordable health care. While the state has made substantial progress by expanding health care coverage to over 400,000 people under the Affordable Care Act, there remains 6% of the state’s population that are still uninsured, a number that MedChi seeks to reduce to zero. Moreover, when uninsured Marylanders do need care, they tend to receive it in hospitals, the most expensive health care setting, which results in driving up the costs of premiums for everybody.

Over 180,000 uninsured Marylanders currently qualify for Medicaid or federal help to buy private health insurance from Maryland Health Connection, the state’s official health benefit exchange, but have not enrolled and may not know they are eligible. MedChi supports an auto-enrollment program for free or very low-cost plans for those who are eligible which would help protect their health and reduce uncompensated health care for all citizens.

State subsidy pilots have proven to be successful. One such pilot made it easier for young adults to purchase private insurance through the Maryland Health Connection which resulted in almost 11,000 new enrollees.

MedChi will continue to advocate for universal health care and support policies that improve access to care by making private coverage more affordable to uninsured Marylanders.

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.