



*The Maryland State Medical Society*

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**MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY,  
HONORS PRIDE MONTH**

ANNAPOLIS, June 08, 2022 — Every June, Pride Month is celebrated across the country to commemorate the 1969 Stonewall Inn uprising and to embrace diversity, promote dignity and equal rights, and increase visibility.

MedChi recognizes that it is more important than ever to celebrate and support the LGBTQ+ rights while also acknowledging that there is much more work needed in overcoming health disparities in the population. Health disparities occur when certain populations have a disproportionate burden of disease, such as COVID-19 or AIDS, due to social, environmental, and economic factors or when certain populations face barriers to accessing care within the healthcare system.

MedChi is committed to addressing and reducing the health inequities faced by the LGBTQ+ community. “LGBTQ+ patients, particularly those who are transgender, face unique challenges when accessing health care,” said MedChi President Loralie Ma, MD. “Our goal is equal access for all patients regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, wherever they seek care.”

Since 2018, MedChi’s policy has been in favor of a broader and more inclusive sex education curriculum in the school system. Studies have found that many schools are unsafe and unwelcoming for most LGBTQ+ students, which can have negative impacts on health and well-being. Expanding sex-education in schools to make it all-inclusive, while weaving in the issues of LGBTQ+ people throughout the curriculum creates space for honest discussions of sexual orientation and gender identity, while removing stigma and judgement. LGBTQ+ youth need and deserve to learn in settings that are inclusive of their experiences and that give them the education necessary to stay safe and healthy.

In May of this year, MedChi adopted policy in support of the expansion of Maryland coverage of gender-affirming care to meet current standards of care and in support of granting equitable access to high quality care for all transgender residents.

MedChi will continue to support policies and encourage legislation that recognize the importance of affirmative and inclusive healthcare and broad-based education for LGBTQ+ people.

**About MedChi**

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. 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](http://www.medchi.org).