

2018 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY AGENDA

for Maryland Physicians and Their Patients

The mission of MedChi, the Maryland State Medical Society, is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health. To that end, during the 2018 General Assembly Session, MedChi shall work on the following objectives:

AS AN ADVOCATE FOR PATIENTS

OPIOID CRISIS: MedChi will promote physician, resident and medical student education regarding the opioid crisis in Maryland and the services available for patients through the HOPE Act and other legislative initiatives.

PROTECT MEDICAID AND THE UNINSURED:

MedChi will work to incentivize physician participation and to protect the integrity of the Medicaid program, including continuing to advocate for full restoration of E&M payment to Medicare rates for all physicians who serve Medicaid enrollees.

DEFEND THE SCOPE OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

SO PATIENTS ARE SEEN BY A PHYSICIAN:

MedChi will fight to ensure that all patients have access to physicians and that physician extenders have appropriate training and physician oversight. It is critical that patients have access to physicians and that non-physicians do not use increased demand for services to inappropriately increase their scope of practice.

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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AS AN ADVOCATE FOR PHYSICIANS

DEFEND PHYSICIAN RIGHTS:

- *Monitoring the regulatory and disciplinary actions of the Board of Physicians;*
- *Protecting and enhancing the integrity of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program and its use by physicians;*
- *Preventing workers compensation insurers from limiting a physician's right to dispense medications to an injured worker;*
- *Supporting continued efforts to address network adequacy and formulary practices; and*
- *Working to further standardize credentialing requirements.*

STRENGTHEN MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM: 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; support efforts to extend the "cap" on damages to physician assistants; establish a pilot project for specialized health courts; limit repeated continuances in medical malpractice cases; establish a birth injury fund; and otherwise work to protect and strengthen the legal liability environment for physicians in Maryland.

ENHANCE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT AND INSURANCE REFORM: MedChi will continue its efforts to improve Maryland's payment climate by working to ensure that gain-sharing and other payment mechanisms for system reform are developed through a stakeholder process that includes broad physician participation and that will have a positive impact on physicians.



**FREE
PRESCRIPTION
DRUG CARD**

For complete details visit, www.medchi.org.

AS AN ADVOCATE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

PROTECTING MARYLAND'S CHILDREN: MedChi will support initiatives to protect children including initiatives to:

- *Address childhood obesity including efforts to reduce the consumption of sugary beverages and other unhealthy food choices;*
- *Increase HPV immunization rates for children at the CDC recommended ages;*
- *Strengthen child safety seat and young driver laws;*
- *Address homelessness, affordable housing and its impact on public health;*
- *Require schools to provide parents with information about the risks of skin cancer and strategies and behaviors to reduce the risk; and*
- *Ban minors access to tanning beds*

ENDING HEALTH DISPARITIES: MedChi will continue to support legislative and regulatory initiatives to reduce health disparities.

MAKING MARYLAND A TOBACCO FREE STATE: MedChi will advocate for continued increases in the Tobacco Tax to discourage smoking and to help fund Medicaid and maintain and restore enhanced E&M payment for all physicians serving Medicaid enrollees. MedChi will also support legislation prohibiting the sale of tobacco products by businesses which provide health care or dispense medications.

DRUG TRANSPARENCY: MedChi will support initiatives that address drug price transparency for name brand and generic pharmaceutical manufacturers, pharmacy benefit managers and insurers.

HIV PREVENTION: MedChi will support policies and initiatives that encourage needle exchange sites throughout Maryland to provide education and referral for consideration for HIV PrEP

CRISIS TREATMENT CENTER EXPANSION: MedChi will advocate for expansion of Maryland's crisis treatment centers throughout the state.

HOW DO I HELP CREATE POSITIVE LEGISLATIVE REFORM FOR PATIENTS, PHYSICIANS, AND THE PUBLIC HEALTH?

JOIN MEDCHI and your local component medical society at www.medchi.org.

JOIN YOUR COMPONENT SOCIETY in Annapolis by attending "Physician House Call on Annapolis" lobbying days for an opportunity to discuss important issues with your legislators. RSVP by emailing Kevin Hayes at khayes@medchi.org.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITIES to discuss important issues with legislators.

STAY INFORMED on legislative issues affecting your practice and profession by reading MedChi's weekly e-newsletter, *MedChi News*, and visiting www.medchi.org. All members are welcome to attend the legislative council meetings.

EMAIL OR PHONE your delegates when MedChi or your component sends you a legislative alert about a bill. Visit the Legislative Action Center at www.medchi.org. Remember

to donate to the MMPAC and help keep physician-friendly legislation in Annapolis.

TESTIFY AT A COMMITTEE HEARING. Contact your component medical society for details.

VOLUNTEER TO SERVE. As Physician of the Day in the Maryland State House during the legislative session. Email Kevin Hayes at khayes@medchi.org.