



# PROTECTING PUBLIC HEALTH



“I know I can count on CMA when it comes to advancing public health in California. From tobacco control, vaccination, reducing obesity, newborn screening, and greater access to health care, CMA helps lead the fight. California has among the highest life expectancies of any state in our country, thanks to the leadership of California physicians and our professional association, CMA.”

**Richard Pan, M.D.**  
California State Senator  
Member since 1999

**A RECORD OF SUCCESS:** Through aggressive political and regulatory advocacy, CMA has positioned itself as one of the most influential stakeholders in the development and implementation of health policy. CMA also gives our members direct access to legislative leaders so they can have a direct impact on the practice of medicine in California.

**COVID-19:** CMA has been an important and outspoken voice in protecting the autonomy of public health officers, and ensuring that policy decisions are made based on science. Additionally, CMA has maintained an ongoing campaign to support and inform physicians during the COVID-19 pandemic. CMA has also distributed more than \$100 million worth of PPE at no cost to physician practices to ensure they are able to safely serve the patients of California. CMA continues to advocate on all fronts to ensure that the interests of physicians and their patients are considered as local, state and federal governments respond to the pandemic.

**TAKING ON BIG TOBACCO:** CMA dealt a resounding blow to the tobacco industry with the passage of Prop. 56, which raised the tax on all tobacco products, including e-cigarette liquids. Prop. 56 provides up to \$2.7 billion in Medi-Cal funding every year. CMA also passed a sweeping series of tobacco control bills—including raising the legal age to purchase tobacco from 18 to 21 and banning the sale of flavored tobacco products—that will undoubtedly save countless California children from a deadly, lifetime addiction to nicotine. Big Tobacco is on the attack, seeking to overturn the flavored tobacco ban through a deceptive referendum that has qualified for the 2022 ballot. CMA stands ready to fight this measure and protect children from Big Tobacco's predatory practices.

**SCHOOL VACCINATIONS:** CMA sponsored two successful bills that eliminated the personal belief exemption from school vaccinations, barring parents from skipping their children's school-required immunizations unless they have a medical exemption from a physician. CMA will continue the fight for vaccines and fact-based arguments to protect kids and the public at large.

**QUESTIONS?** CMA's live-person call center is available Monday through Friday during business hours at **(800) 786-4262** or via live chat at **cmadocs.org**.

**JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION:** In 2020, CMA doubled down on its commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion by updating its mission statement to reflect the association's commitment to health equity and justice. CMA also formalized its Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee by establishing it as a standing committee of the CMA Board of Trustees. Since then, CMA has taken several actions to reorient around JEDI issues, including supporting legislation and ballot proposals on issues that disproportionately affect communities of color. Through this committee, CMA will continue to examine and work to dismantle racism and racist systems, including within the house of medicine, to eliminate health inequities that undermine our state's public health and collective well-being.

**PREVENTING FIREARM VIOLENCE:** As with other public health issues, physicians have a unique responsibility as trusted public health figures to respond to the harms associated with firearm violence, both as individual clinicians and as community advocates. CMA's Firearm Violence Prevention Technical Advisory Committee works to identify opportunities and resources that may aid physicians in addressing firearm violence as a public health issue.

**DIABETES PREVENTION:** Diabetes remains one of California's fastest growing and most costly diseases. CMA has taken an active role in promoting awareness of prediabetes resources to help providers connect their patients to CDC-recognized diabetes prevention programs and allow patients to take charge of their health.

**CMA PUBLIC HEALTH PLAN:** CMA physicians strongly believe in the role of public health and advocating for organized measures that prevent disease, promote health and prolong life. In 2016, CMA adopted a long-term strategic public health plan that identifies several goals aimed at reducing adult and childhood obesity, addressing pain as a public health problem, and preventing and treating behavioral health disorders.

## WE ARE HERE FOR YOU



**CMA and its county medical societies have represented California's physicians for 165 years as the recognized voice of the house of medicine. Together we stand taller, our combined voices stronger, fighting for the future of medicine and our noble profession.**

- + CMA and its county medical societies—representing nearly 50,000 physicians, residents and medical students—influence public policy at the state and federal levels.
- + Members have free access to valuable professional resources, including CMA's online health law library that contains nearly 5,000 pages of legal information related to the practice of medicine.
- + Our extensive network of benefit partners makes it so that your membership can easily pay for itself.

## CMA MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



### Legal Resources

Access CMA's online health law library with 5,000 pages of information and resources.



### Billing Assistance

Receive expert help with physician reimbursement and medical business issues.



### Education Resources

Attend in-person seminars, secure CME or watch on-demand webinars.



### News Updates

Stay informed through CMA's newsletters and custom content alerts.



### Practice Resources

Access resources to maintain an efficient medical practice, including HIPAA tool kits.



### Member Discounts

Explore discounts on everything from magazines to insurance.