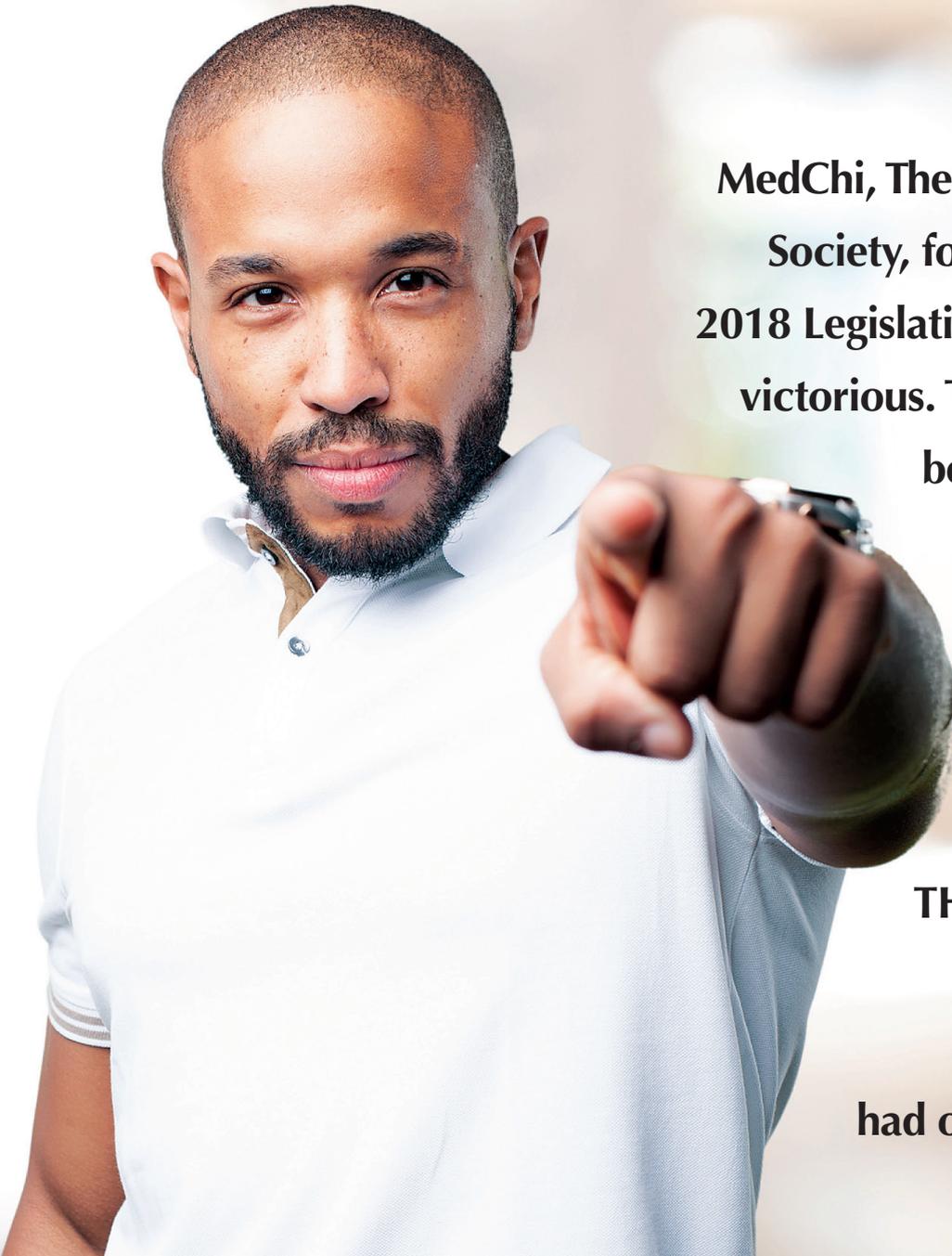


# 2018 LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES



**MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, fought a hard battle in the 2018 Legislative Session and came out victorious. The fight would not have been won without **YOU**, the MedChi member.**

**We would like to thank ALL members for their support and congratulate them on THEIR legislative victories. Without this support, MedChi would not have had one of its most *successful* Sessions in history.**

# MedChi

[www.medchi.org](http://www.medchi.org)

1211 Cathedral Street • Baltimore, MD 21201-5516  
1.800.492.1056 Ph / 410.547.0915 Fx

## **DEFEATED THE WEAKENING OF MARYLAND'S MEDICAL MALPRACTICE LAWS BY PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEYS**

Senate Bill 30/House Bill 1581 would have eliminated the "20% Rule," Maryland's long-standing law prohibiting "professional witnesses". MedChi members sent over 1,500 emails to their legislators in the last days of Session, resulting in the bill's defeat (41-89) despite it being passed by the Senate (by one vote). This incredible victory, which many believed was impossible, clearly demonstrates the collective power of the physician community. MedChi also defeated efforts to triple noneconomic ("pain and suffering") damages.

# 2018 LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES



## **SECURED ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR PHYSICIAN PAYMENTS**

MedChi successfully lobbied to preserve \$17.6 million in the Governor's budget to maintain Medicaid physician rates, getting us one step closer to returning the rates to 100% of Medicare.

## **SUCCESSFULLY LOBBIED FOR THE ADOPTION OF PRAGMATIC SOLUTIONS TO MARYLAND'S OPIOID CRISIS**

MedChi successfully lobbied for proactive initiatives to address Maryland's opioid crisis while fighting initiatives that would have unfairly targeted or unnecessarily burdened physicians. MedChi supported the creation of a "Pill Mill Tip Line" and development and expansion of crisis response systems. MedChi defeated efforts that would have allowed law enforcement, local health departments and insurance companies direct access to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

## **PROTECTED AND ENHANCED THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE**

MedChi continued to protect the integrity of the practice of medicine. Working with the Maryland Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, MedChi defeated an expansion of scope by optometrists. Likewise, MedChi worked with the Maryland Orthopaedic Association to prohibit the attempt

by podiatrists to use the term "physician". MedChi worked for the successful passage of legislation that makes Maryland a member of the Interstate Medical Compact. MedChi also successfully advocated to prohibit hospitals and insurers from requiring physicians to maintain their specialty certifications through the American Board of Medical Specialties. The issue will be studied over the interim by the Maryland Health Care Commission.

## **ENSURED THAT PATIENTS CAN BENEFIT FROM LESS EXPENSIVE DRUG COSTS**

MedChi successfully worked with "Health Care for All!" and other Maryland health leaders to prohibit "gag clauses" in pharmacy benefit contracts to allow pharmacists to discuss less expensive options with patients.

## **ADVANCED PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES**

MedChi successfully advocated for public health concerns, including legislation for students to use sunscreen at school activities without written permission from their physician; legislation that requires correctional facilities to provide feminine hygiene products to inmates and have written policies regarding medical services for pregnant inmates, and legislation that establishes a grant program to address youth homelessness