

# MedChi NEWS

## MEDCHI HOLDS THE LINE ON KEY HEALTH POLICY BATTLES AS 2025 SESSION CLOSES

### MEDCHI HOLDS THE LINE ON KEY HEALTH POLICY BATTLES AS 2025 SESSION CLOSES



**Delegate Clippinger, Dr. Maury, Delegate Edelson, & Delegate Lewis.**

As the 2025 Maryland General Assembly session comes to a close, MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is ending the session with a strong focus on defense—working to block legislation that threatens patient safety, physician practice, and the stability of the state’s healthcare system.

Two of MedChi’s top defensive focuses on the last day of the session include its staunch opposition to a bill that would have expanded the scope of practice for naturopaths and a trial lawyer-backed bill to repeal Maryland’s long-standing cap on noneconomic damages in medical liability cases. Both measures posed significant risks to the healthcare environment: the naturopath bill would have allowed independent diagnosis and treatment without adequate training, while the repeal of the liability cap would have destabilized the malpractice insurance market and threatened care access across the state.

On the access side, MedChi successfully advocated to preserve Medicaid reimbursement, avoiding any cut to physician rates, a priority critical to maintaining physician participation in the state’s healthcare safety net. With more than 1.5 million Marylanders enrolled in Medicaid, rate parity remains a MedChi priority. Parity ensures that patients can continue to access timely care, especially in underserved areas.

However, MedChi’s work has taken place amid a challenging fiscal environment. The General Assembly faced difficult decisions to close a budget gap, and MedChi has urged policymakers not to balance the budget on the backs of physicians and the patients they serve. MedChi pushed back on proposals to cut public health funding and physician payment programs, emphasizing the need to reinvest in care delivery as Maryland seeks to meet its population health goals.

As the session concludes, MedChi remains focused on ensuring that healthcare policies prioritize evidence-based care, patient access, and a sustainable physician workforce. The battles over scope of practice and liability reform will likely return next year, but MedChi’s advocacy this session has made clear that the voice of medicine remains strong in Annapolis. You can see some of the physicians who helped us in this session [here](#). We will release a full report shortly after the session ends at midnight tonight.