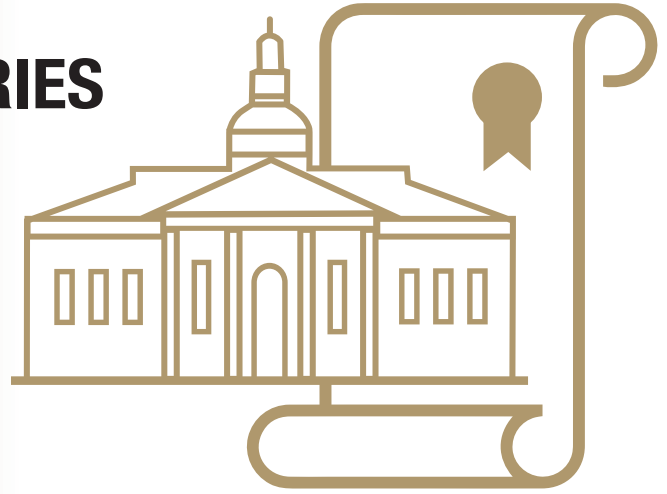


2020 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY VICTORIES

As the statewide professional association for licensed physicians, MedChi is dedicated to our mission to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients, and the public health.



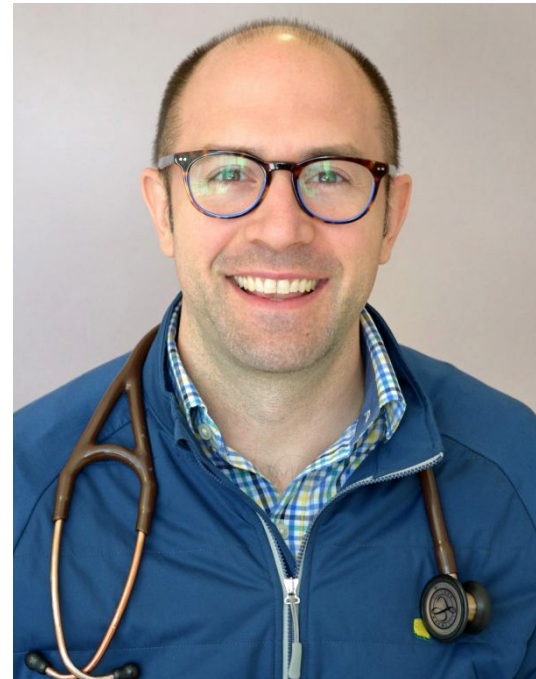
"MedChi is the unsung hero of the physician and patient community in Maryland. MedChi's hard work directly benefits all physicians in practice, both MedChi members and nonmembers, as well as our patients."

Clement Banda, MD
Chair, Boards and Commissions Subcommittee



"As MedChi members, we advocate for sound health care policies in Maryland to secure access to medical care for our patients and improve their lives."

Anuradha D. Reddy, MD, FACP
Chair, Health Insurance Subcommittee



"MedChi's Public Health Subcommittee is dedicated to utilizing the latest evidence-based medicine to inform evidence-based policies that will improve the health of all Marylanders. We rely on the expertise of our physician members and the legislative council and lobbying team to work in harmony to support public health efforts in Annapolis."

Richard Bruno, MD, MPH
Chair, Public Health Subcommittee

MedChi

The Maryland State Medical Society

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2020

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY VICTORIES

PROTECT ACCESS TO PHYSICIAN SERVICES

- MedChi successfully lobbied for a \$4 million increase in the Governor's budget to maintain Medicaid physician E & M Codes reimbursement rates at 93% of Medicare.
- MedChi will continue to restore reimbursement rates to 100% of Medicare.

ENSURE TIMELY DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND PAYMENT

- MedChi was successful in securing the withdrawal of balance billing legislation that was opposed by MedChi that would have had significant negative implications for Maryland's current balance billing protection.
- MedChi was successful in protecting the exemptions and delayed effective date negotiated originally in legislation considered in 2019 regarding electronic prescriptions for controlled dangerous substances.
- Legislation was successfully passed to fund the Prescription Drug Affordability Board and Fund, initially supported by MedChi in 2019.
- MedChi successfully advocated for the passage of legislation that redefines the definition of specialty drugs to now exclude drugs which treat diabetes, HIV and AIDS, and prohibits carriers from imposing a co-payment or coinsurance requirement in excess of \$150 for a maximum 30-day supply.
- MedChi successfully advocated in support of legislation that was enacted that requires carriers to submit two reports to the Insurance Commissioner to demonstrate compliance with the federal Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act and provide information on the provision of benefits.

STRENGTHEN PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

- MedChi successfully advocated for an increase in tobacco taxes, as well as a ban on flavored tobacco products.
- MedChi successfully advocated for the passage of legislation that updates both the membership and responsibilities of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Commission to ensure that the commission continues to focus on the most critical elements of lead poisoning prevention.
- MedChi successfully defeated an effort to limit minors' access to long-acting contraceptives.

ADDRESSING BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TREATMENT AND RECOVERY NEEDS

- MedChi was able to ensure that the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) remains a health care tool and not a law enforcement tool.
- MedChi successfully defeated legislation that would have allowed local health departments access to the PDMP.
- MedChi successfully advocated for the passage of two initiatives to address timely and appropriate access to behavioral health services.

PROTECTING THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

- MedChi was able to suspend the passage of legislation advanced by the podiatrists to allow them to use term "podiatric physician", currently in use by other states.
- MedChi defeated a number of legislative initiatives that would have authorized pharmacists to provide self-administered medications and maintenance injectable medications; prescribe tobacco cessation products; and administer immunizations to minors age 9 and older without a physician's prescription.
- MedChi successfully advocated to defeat the ongoing effort by naturopaths to gain prescriptive authority.
- MedChi defeated legislation that would have lifted the statutory limits on non-economic damages.
- MedChi's advocacy related to legislation that resulted from the sunset extension and program evaluation of the Board of Physicians. MedChi effectively used this review to address several longstanding issues with board disciplinary matters.
- MedChi supported integrative medicine advocates in their successful negotiation of amendments with the Board of Physicians. The legislation, which was enacted, requires that the standard of care be observed, but prohibits a professional board from acting against a practitioner "solely" because integrative methods are utilized.
- MedChi was able to increase the amount of physician license fees used to fund the Maryland Physician and Physician's Assistant Loan Program (LARP).

REGULATORY ADVOCACY IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

- MedChi helped pass telehealth legislation clarifying the rules and guidelines surrounding this increasingly vital platform as we deal with the pandemic.
- MedChi successfully advocated for the authorized use of Medicaid reimbursement for telehealth services utilized in patient households.
- MedChi advocated to prohibit a health occupations board from establishing a separate standard of care of telehealth.
- MedChi successfully advocated to require the HSCRC to fund an independent actuarial analysis of the state's hospital medical liability market.