

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MCMS Membership Meeting
February 8, 2017

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President, 2016-2107



The Maryland State Medical Society

Drug Transparency / Price Gouging

PHYSICIAN GOAL: Address drug price transparency for name brand and generic pharmaceutical manufacturers and pharmacy benefit managers.

- Advocate for legislation that requires pharmaceutical manufacturers and pharmacy benefit managers to disclose the basis for prices of all prescription drugs.
- Support legal action against price gouging by pharmaceutical manufacturers



Drug Price Transparency / Price Gouging Press Conference 1/10/2017



SB437; SB415 Hearing 2/15/17
HB666; HB631 Hearing TBD

Medical Liability Reform

PHYSICIAN GOAL: Protect and strengthen the legal liability environment for MD physicians



- Continue to strongly oppose trial lawyer attempts to
 - Increase the cap on damage awards in medical malpractices cases SB225; and
 - Abolish the defense of contributory negligence
- Support efforts to
 - Examine establishing specialized health courts;
 - Limit repeated continuances in malpractice cases; and
 - Amend current caps on non-economic damages for physicians to include physician assistants.

New Opioid Restrictions

- HB 661 Reporting
- HB 687 / HB 539 Death Cases
- Governors Bill: Limited Rx to 7 days

Optometry Bill

- SB611/HB807 Increases Scope of Practice of Optometrists to allow:
 - Surgeries
 - Administer or prescribe medications

- We are OPPOSED

- Hearing 2/15 House
- Hearing 2/22 Senate



Fingerprinting

- To be done ONCE before your next License Renewal
- If you have anything reportable that you haven't, DO IT NOW before they find it
- Relatively easy to do - takes 15 minutes
- Multiple places – Bethesda, Silver Spring, Rockville
- Cost? \$58



Nominee for Secretary of HHS

- President nominated Congressman Tom Price, MD of Georgia as the new HHS Secretary.
- The Senate Finance Committee voted to support his nomination. The next step is confirmation by the full Senate.
- Hearings were held by the Senate Finance & Health, Education & Labors Committee earlier in the month.



AMA National Advocacy Week Physician Day on Capitol Hill

- Held on February 28
- Convene early morning at the AMA office in Washington, DC
- Followed by the MedChi Team visits with select members of the Maryland
- Contact Susan D'Antoni to sign up



Physician Days in Annapolis

- Baltimore County February 22 8:00 am
 - Baltimore City February 22 8:00 am
 - Prince George's County March 6 5:00 pm
 - Howard County March 6 5:00 pm
 - **Montgomery County** **March 8 8:00 am**
 - Students & Residents March 27 5:00 pm
- **Contact Yelena Shapiro at yshapiro@medchi.org**



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What Can You Do To Help?

- Contact your Delegates and Senators in the MD General Assembly on important health care issues
- Use MedChi's online Legislative Action Center at <http://capwiz.com/medchi/state/main/?state=MD> to get in touch with your legislators and sign up for action alerts!
- Join the Legislative Council



Closing Comments

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