



CONNECTICUT STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Professional Liability

- Continue to promote the concept of health courts as an alternative to the current adversarial, cumbersome and ineffective tort system
- Seek the establishment of a statewide study committee of all potential stakeholders to develop recommendation for an alternative health court system
- Further educate policymakers and the public of potentially serious consequences of administrative burdens and intrusions on the practice of quality medicine
- Protect the personal assets of physicians in liability cases
- Continue support for traditional tort reforms such as limits on damages, periodic payments, and reduction to the pre-judgment interest levels
- Support for the establishment of an “Expert Witness Certification” process prior to testifying in medical negligence cases
- Immunity for physicians providing volunteer or *pro bono* services

Contracting, Transparency & Fairness

- Strengthen state statutes related to network adequacy requirement for health insurance plans
- Establish limitation on the use of tiered and narrow networks and increase transparency regarding their structure and determination of participating providers
- Seek legislation requiring health plans to grant network participation to any physician willing to join the network and meet the network requirements
- Allow for retroactive billing of services to date of submission for an approved credentialing application
- Require credentialing applications decision be made with 45 days of receipt of a complete application. 30 days for previously credentialed physicians changing employment (billing under a different tax id number)
- Require reimbursement for any mandatory screening tests required by the state
- OPT IN For future products

Physician Workforce Issues

- Enact state exemptions from federal laws to allow physicians to negotiate as a group to strengthen their contracting abilities. Benefits would include the ability to seek opportunities to implement electronic medical records systems, establish ACOS, and cover increased liability insurance costs and support recruitment of new physicians.
- Reduce regulations that impede physician services such as those required by the Certificate of Need process.
- Establish student loan forgiveness and insurance premium assistance program for new physicians.

Proactive Public Health Initiatives

- Student Concussions – ensure ALL organized athletic programs must meet the state’s “return to play” statute, not only interscholastic and seek to enhance the statute to address “return to learn” issues as well.
- Seek a standard definition of surgery to provide clarity to state statute that currently refers to general surgery, yet does not define surgery in numerous citations.
- Investigate the need for delineation and definition of “urgent care facility” vs. “walk in clinic.”
- Strengthen “Truth in Advertising laws” and others that require disclosure of accurate information about a health care provider’s training and abilities. Legislation should include the requirement that health care professional clearly identify their level of independence and any involvement, collaboration, supervision or delegation by a physician
- Seek a review of the membership, authority and actions of medical professional boards