

MSSNYPAC ENDORSEMENTS FOR ELECTION APPROVED AT SEPTEMBER 19 MSSNY COUNCIL MEETING

At its September 19 meeting, the MSSNY Council affirmed the below candidate endorsements from the MSSNYPAC Political Action Committee recommended at its September 9 MSSNYPAC Executive Committee meeting. The recommendations were based upon recommendations of the MSSNYPAC State Candidate Evaluation Subcommittee and Federal Candidate Evaluation Subcommittee at its August 15 and September 6 meetings, respectively.

Each of the 29 members listed below has demonstrated themselves to be champions of issues of importance to physicians and the patients they treat.

US CONGRESS

Rep. Yvette Clarke (D – 9th District/Kings County) – co-sponsor of legislation to:

- Stop Medicare Physician Payment Cuts and enable annual future increases (HR 2474)
- Enacting reform of Medicare Advantage insurer prior authorization hassles (HR 8702)
- Expand the number of Medicare coverage residency slots (HR 2389)
- Expand the number of Conrad-30 slots that each state may make available for IMG physicians (HR 4942)
- Enact a federal law prohibiting health plans from limiting application of drug discount cards to help patients meet their deductibles (HR 830)

She also is on the House Energy & Commerce Committee and has a strong relationship with local physicians.

Rep. Dan Goldman (D – 10th District/Kings, NY Counties) – co-sponsor of legislation to:

- Stop Medicare Physician Payment Cuts and enable annual future increases (HR 2474)
- Stop Medicare Cuts for 2024 (HR 6683)
- Expand the number of Medicare coverage residency slots (HR 2389)
- Enact a federal law prohibiting health plans from limiting application of drug discount cards to help patients meet their deductibles (HR 830)
- Enable medical residents to defer loan repayment during their residency (HR 1202)

Rep. Mike Lawler (R – 17th District/Dutchess, Putnam, Rockland, and Westchester) – co-sponsor of legislation to:

- Extend broader Medicare Telehealth Coverage beyond 2024 (HR 4189)
- Expand the number of Medicare covered medical residency slots (HR 2389)
- Expand the number of Conrad-30 slots that each state may make available for IMG physicians (HR 4942)

- Enact a federal law prohibiting health plans from limiting application of drug discount cards to help patients meet their deductibles (HR 830)
- Enable medical residents to defer loan repayment during their residency (HR 1202)

He also has a strong relationship with local physicians and has spoke at MSSNY's House of Delegations PAC meeting.

Rep. Nicole Malliotakis (R – 11th District/Richmond and Kings Counties) – co-sponsor of legislation to:

- Stop Medicare Cuts for 2024 (HR 6683)
- Enacting reform of Medicare Advantage insurer prior authorization hassles (HR 8702)
- Expand the number of Medicare covered medical residency slots (HR 2389)
- Expand the number of Conrad-30 slots that each state may make available for IMG physicians (HR 4942)
- Enable medical residents to defer loan repayment during their residency (HR 1202)

She is also on House Ways & Means Committee and has a strong relationship with local physicians.

Rep Joe Morelle (D – 25th District/Monroe and Orleans Counties) – co-sponsor of legislation to:

- Stop Medicare Physician Payment Cuts and enable annual future increases (HR 2474)
- Expand the number of Medicare covered medical residency slots (HR 2389)
- Expand the number of Conrad-30 slots that each state may make available for IMG physicians (HR 4942)
- Enact a federal law prohibiting health plans from limiting application of drug discount cards to help patients meet their deductibles (HR 830)
- Enable medical residents to defer loan repayment during their residency (HR 1202)

He has maintained a strong relationship with local physicians.

Rep. Tom Suozzi (D- 3rd District/Nassau County) – co-sponsor of legislation to:

- Stop Medicare Physician Payment Cuts and enable annual future increases (HR 2474)
- Enacting reform of Medicare Advantage insurer prior authorization hassles (HR 8702)
- Enact a federal law prohibiting health plans from limiting application of drug discount cards to help patients meet their deductibles (HR 830)

In addition, in 2021, as a member of the Ways & Means Committee, Rep. Suozzi played a significant role in pushing back against components of the No Surprises Act that would have made the federal IDR process for out of network disputes even more difficult for physicians to navigate. He has maintained a strong relationship with local physicians.

NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

Assemblymember Michael Fitzpatrick, 8th District (R-Suffolk County) - opposed legislation which would have greatly increased liability premium costs for physicians (A.9232-B). Supported legislation (A.901-A) which would provide patients' greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols, and legislation (A.7316) which requires payment parity for telehealth-delivered health care services.

Assemblymember Scott Gray, 116th District (R-Jefferson & St. Lawrence Counties) - opposed legislation which would have greatly increased liability premium costs for physicians (A.9232-B). Supported legislation (A.1633-B) which would provide greater community protections against hospital closures, legislation (A.901-A) which would provide patients greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols, and legislation (A.7316) to require payment parity in telehealth-delivered health care services.

Assemblymember Steve Hawley, 139th District (R-Erie, Genesee, Monroe & Orleans Counties) - opposed legislation which would have greatly increased liability premium costs for physicians (A.9232-B). Supported legislation (A.901-A) which would provide patients' greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols, legislation (A.7316) to require payment parity in telehealth-delivered health care services, and legislation (A.7268-A) to reduce prior authorization hassles imposed by health insurance companies.

Assemblymember Josh Jensen, 134th District (R-Monroe County) - opposed legislation which would have greatly increased liability premium costs for physicians (A.9232-B). Supported legislation (A.901-A) which would provide patients' greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols, legislation (A.7316) to require payment parity in telehealth-delivered health care services, and legislation (A.7268-A) to reduce prior authorization hassles imposed by health insurance companies.

Assemblymember Billy Jones, 115th District (D-Clinton, Essex & Franklin counties) - opposed legislation which would have greatly increased liability premium costs for physicians (A.9232-B). Supported legislation (A.1633-B) which would provide greater community protections against hospital closures and legislation (A.901-A) which would provide patients greater protections against

arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols. He has been a regular speaker at the 3rd/4th MSSNY District branch planning meeting, taking the time to answer numerous questions from the attending physicians.

Assemblymember Brian Manktelow, 130th District (R-Monroe & Wayne Counties) - opposed legislation which would have greatly increased liability premium costs for physicians (A.9232-B). Supported legislation (A.901-A) which would provide patients' greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols, and legislation (A.7316) which requires payment parity for telehealth-delivered health care services.

Assemblymember John McDonald, 108th District, (D-Albany, Rensselaer, and Saratoga Counties) - opposed legislation which would have greatly increased liability premium costs for physicians (A.9232-B). Chief sponsor of legislation (A.901-A) which would provide patients greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols, legislation (A.859-A) which would require health insurers to establish gold card protocols for physicians whose prior authorization requests are regularly approved, and legislation (A.8576) to prohibit health insurers from imposing a charge on a physician based upon the method of making payment. Also supported legislation (A.1633-B) which would provide greater community protections against hospital closures and legislation (A.7316) to require payment parity in telehealth-delivered healthcare services.

Assemblymember John McGowan, 97th District (R-Rockland County) - opposed legislation which would have greatly increased liability premium costs for physicians (A.9232-B). Supported legislation (A.901-A) which would provide patients' greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols and legislation (A.7316) to require payment parity in telehealth-delivered healthcare services.

Assemblymember Brian Miller, 122d District (R-Herkimer, Madison, Oneida, and Otsego counties) - opposed legislation which would have greatly increased liability premium costs for physicians (A.9232-B). Supported legislation (A.1633-B) which would provide greater community protections against hospital closures and legislation (A.901-A) which would provide patients greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols.

Assemblymember Phil Palmesano, 132d District (R-Chemung, Seneca, Schulyer, Steuben & Yates County) - opposed legislation which would have greatly increased liability premium costs for physicians (A.9232-B). Supported legislation (A.901-A) which would provide patients' greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols, legislation (A.7316) to require payment parity in telehealth-delivered health care services, and legislation

(A.7268-A) to reduce prior authorization hassles imposed by health insurance companies.

Assemblymember Amy Paulin, 88th District (D-Westchester) – Chief sponsor of legislation (A.6019) to permit independently practicing physicians with right to collectively negotiate with health insurers, legislation (A.7316) to require payment parity for telehealth-delivered health care services and legislation (A.6017) to expand liability protection of MSSNY's CPH program. Led effort to enshrine into law requirement for health insurers to utilize physicians of same specialty during internal appeals of denied pre-authorizations or claims. As Chair of the Assembly Health Committee, she fought to exclude from State Budget numerous problematic Executive Budget proposals, including elimination of MSSNY's CPH program, preventing IDR access to challenge Medicaid Managed Care underpayments, and imposing a 50% cost-share on the 16,000 physicians enrolled for Excess Medical Malpractice Insurance coverage. Moreover, she has consistently presented and answered questions from physicians during its Annual Albany Physician Advocacy Day.

Assemblymember Nader Sayegh, 90th District (D-Westchester County) - opposed legislation which would have greatly increased liability premium costs for physicians (A.9232-B). Supported legislation (A.901-A) which would provide patients' greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols, legislation (A.1633-B) which would provide greater community protections against hospital closures, legislation (A.7316) to require payment parity in telehealth-delivered health care services, and legislation (A7268-A) to reduce prior authorization hassles imposed by health insurance companies.

Assemblymember David Weprin, 24th District (D-Queens County) – chief sponsor of legislation (A.7268-A) to reduce health insurer pre-authorization hassles, legislation (A.7120) to help preserve out of network health insurance coverage in NYSHIP health benefits. Supported legislation (A.901-A) which would provide patients' greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols, legislation (A.1633-B) which would provide greater community protections against hospital closures, legislation (A.7316) to require payment parity in telehealth-delivered health care services. Also fought strenuously to oppose Executive Budget proposal to require physicians to bear 50% of Excess Medical Malpractice Insurance cost. Chair of Assembly Insurance Committee. He has consistently presented and answered questions from physicians during MSSNY's Annual Albany Physician Advocacy Day.

NEW YORK STATE SENATE

Senator George Borello, 57th District (R-Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Genesee & Wyoming Counties) - opposed legislation which would have greatly increased liability premium costs for physicians (S.8485-B).

Supported legislation (S.8843) which would provide greater community protections against hospital closures, and legislation (S.6733) to require payment parity in telehealth-delivered health care services.

Senator Iwen Chu, 17th District (D-Kings County) - opposed legislation which would have greatly increased liability premium costs for physicians (S.8485-B). Supported legislation (S.1267-A) which would provide patients' greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols, legislation (S.8843) which would provide greater community protections against hospital closures, and legislation (S.6733) to require payment parity in telehealth-delivered health care services.

Senator Jeremy Cooney, 56th District (D-Monroe County) - opposed legislation which would have greatly increased liability premium costs for physicians (S.8485-B). Supported legislation (S.1267-A) which would provide patients' greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols, legislation (S.8843) which would provide greater community protections against hospital closures, and legislation (S.6733) to require payment parity in telehealth-delivered health care services.

Assemblymember Pat Fahy, running for 46th Senate District (D-Albany) - As Chair of Assembly Higher Education Committee, she has thoughtfully considered MSSNY and specialty society concerns with the litany of bills that would inappropriately expand the statutory scope of practice of numerous health care professionals. In particular, she led efforts to exclude from State Budget Governor's Executive Budget proposal to permit many Physician Assistants to practice without physician supervision, and pharmacists to perform numerous lab tests without physician coordination. Supported legislation (A.1633-B) which would provide greater community protections against hospital closures and legislation (A.901-A) which would provide patients greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols.

Senator Joseph Griffo, 53rd District (R-Chenango, Herkimer, Madison, and Oneida Counties) - opposed legislation which would have greatly increased liability premium costs for physicians (S.8485-B). Supported legislation (S.1267-A) which would provide patients' greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols and legislation (S.6733) to require payment parity in telehealth-delivered health care services. Also sponsor of legislation (S.4227) to expand physician loan repayment opportunities.

Senator Jack Martins, 7th District, (R-Nassau County) - Supported legislation (S.1267-A) which would provide patients' greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols, legislation (S.6733) to require payment parity in telehealth-delivered health care services, legislation (S.8843)

which would provide greater community protections against hospital closures, legislation (S.3282-A) to provide physicians greater due process protections against non-renewals from health insurance companies, and legislation (S.3400) to reduce health insurer prior authorization hassles.

Senator Steve Rhoads, 5th District (R-Nassau County)- Supported legislation (S.1267-A) which would provide patients' greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols, legislation (S.6733) to require payment parity in telehealth-delivered health care services, legislation (S.8843) which would provide greater community protections against hospital closures, legislation (S.3282-A) to provide physicians greater due process protections against non-renewals from health insurance companies, and legislation (S.3400) to reduce health insurer prior authorization hassles. He also spoke to physicians at MSSNY's House of Delegates PAC meeting.

Senator Gustavo Rivera, 33rd District (D-Bronx) – Chief sponsor of numerous bills supported by MSSNY, including legislation (S.6733) to provide payment parity for telehealth-delivered health care services, legislation (S.3282-A) to provide physicians with greater due process when their participation contract is non-renewed from a health insurer, legislation (S.1727-A) to prohibit health insurers and hospitals from requiring a physician to maintain board certification as a condition of participation and legislation (S.4785-A) to permit independently practicing physicians to collectively negotiate with health insurance plans. As Chair of Senate Health Committee, fought to exclude from State Budget numerous problematic Executive Budget proposals, including elimination of CPH, preventing IDR access to challenge Medicaid Managed Care underpayments, and imposing cost-share on physicians for Excess Medical Malpractice Insurance coverage. He has consistently presented and answered questions from physicians during MSSNY's Annual Albany Physician Advocacy Day.

Senator Toby Stavisky, 11th District (D-Queens) – As Chair of Senate Higher Education Committee, she has thoughtfully considered MSSNY and specialty society concerns with the litany of bills that would inappropriately expand the statutory scope of practice of numerous health care professionals. In particular, she led efforts to exclude from State Budget Governor's Executive Budget proposals to permit many Physician Assistants to practice without physician supervision, and to permit pharmacists to perform numerous lab tests without physician coordination. Supported legislation (S.1267-A) which would provide patients' greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols, legislation (S.8843) which would provide greater community protections against hospital closures, and legislation (S.6733) to require payment parity in telehealth-delivered health care services.

Senator Daniel Stec, 45th District (R-Clinton, Essex, Franklin, St. Lawrence, Warren & Washington) - opposed legislation which would have greatly increased liability premium costs for physicians (S.8485-B). Supported legislation (S.1267-A)

which would provide patients' greater protections against arbitrary health insurer step therapy medication protocols, legislation (S.6733) to require payment parity in telehealth-delivered health care services, legislation (S.3282-A) to provide physicians greater due process protections against non-renewals from health insurance companies, and legislation (S.3400) to reduce health insurer prior authorization hassles. He has been a regular speaker at the 3rd/4th MSSNY District branch planning meeting, taking the time to answer questions from the attending physicians.