



Please Continue to Urge Your Legislators to Reject Problematic State Budget Proposals and Preserve Access to Skilled Physician Care

As 3-way State Budget negotiations begin to intensify towards attempting to meet the April 1 State Budget deadline, physicians must continue to contact their legislators on the several pressing State Budget issues impacting their ability to continue to deliver needed patient care. In advancing their respective "one-House" Budget proposals last week, both the State Senate and Assembly recommended rejecting many of the problematic proposals that had been included in Governor's Executive Budget proposal released in January. While these actions by the Legislature are very important, it does not end the discussion of these issues in the State Budget.

Therefore, physician advocacy on each of these issues remains essential. Please continue to use MSSNY's grassroots tools to send letters and tweets urging continued opposition to these measures.

- **Reject Steep Increases in Medical Liability Costs.** Both the Senate and Assembly recommended rejection of the Governor's proposal to impose \$40 million in new costs to the 16,000 physicians who receive Excess Medical Malpractice Insurance coverage by requiring them to pay 50% of the coverage cost. This short-sighted proposal will hit physicians with thousands of dollars in new costs when they can least absorb it. Please continue to urge your legislators to OPPOSE this measure. [Reject Physician Cost-Share](#)
- **Don't Let Insurers Put Their Thumb on the Scale in IDR.** Both the Senate and Assembly recommended rejection of the Governor's proposal that threatens immediate specialty care availability in Emergency Departments across New York State by upending New York's innovative IDR payment resolution process for non-participating provider claims, altering the criteria to make it one-sided towards health insurer interests and eliminating ability to appeal out of network Medicaid Managed Care disputes to IDR. Essentially, this would enable the health insurer to "put its thumb on the scale" in what is supposed to be an INDEPENDENT dispute resolution process. Please continue to urge your legislators to OPPOSE this measure [Protect Fair IDR Process](#).
- **Preserve Physician-Led Team Care.** Both the Senate and Assembly recommended rejection of the Governor's proposal to permit many Physician Assistants (PAs) to practice without any defined physician supervision after 8,000 hours practice, despite a law enacted

last year giving PAs significantly more care responsibilities. Urge your legislators to OPPOSE [Preserve Physician-led Care](#).

- **Preserve County Medical Society Peer Review.** The State Assembly recommended rejection of the Governor's proposal to eliminate the historical vetting role of the county medical society in recommending physicians to participate in the Workers' Compensation program. The problem with Workers' Compensation is not the application process, but its low payments relative to the enormous hassles of claim submissions and non-payment months and years after providing complex care to injured workers. Unfortunately, the Senate included this proposal in its one-House Budget proposal as part of a larger reform package that also included measures seeking to reduce some of hassles physicians experience in the WC system. Please continue to urge your legislators to OPPOSE elimination of the important vetting role of county medical societies. [Preserve Workers' Compensation Peer Review](#)

(AUSTER)

Assembly and Senate Budget Proposals Include Some Positive Healthcare Provisions

The Senate and Assembly one-House Budget packages advanced last week included several proposals supported by MSSNY to improve patient healthcare access also proposed in the Governor's Executive Budget submission, including:

- Extending for 2 more years statutory provisions requiring health insurers to make equal payments for care delivered by telehealth.
- Funding the Committee for Physicians Health (CPH) at its historical level of \$990,000.
- Funding the Doctors Across New York medical student loan repayment program at its historical level of \$15.86M.
- Increased investment in the Early Intervention program.
- **Implement Prior Authorization Reform** [2026 Budget Prior Auth Fact Sheet](#). The Senate included the Executive Budget proposal to: prohibit health insurers from requiring a prior authorization more than once per year for treating a chronic health condition; requiring greater transparency of health plan formularies; requiring greater transparency of prior authorization denials; and to provide a 90-day transition period for a patient to continue to be treated by that patient's physician if the patient changes their health plan coverage.

The Assembly largely included the Governor's prior authorization proposal but did include some substantive limitations on the "once per year" limitation, permitting plans to impose additional prior authorization requirements based upon "nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines" for evaluating possible side effects from an approved treatment, or substantive changes in nationally recognized treatment guidelines. MSSNY is coordinating with various patient advocacy groups to analyze whether these provisions will undermine the general limitations on repeat prior authorization requests and empower health plans to continue to impose unreasonable prior authorization requirements.

At the same time, MSSNY continues to urge that the State Budget include far-reaching prior authorization reform legislation (A.3789, Weprin) that would reduce the timeframes for prior auth requests and prohibit altogether repeating prior authorization requirements from health plans.

(AUSTER, CARY)

Statement from MSSNY President Dr. David Jakubowicz Regarding New York Being Deemed Worst State to be a Physician.

“New York’s return to the bottom of the list of all states [Best & Worst States for Doctors in 2026](#) in which to practice medicine is a stark reminder to policymakers regarding the need to improve New York’s practice climate. New York physicians face by far and away the highest liability costs in the country. In 2023, New York State spent more on medical liability payments than California and Florida combined despite having one-third the population. These exorbitant medical liability insurance costs, along with excessive practice mandates and pervasive hassles from insurers in delivering patient care contribute extensively to New York’s continued poor ranking and the growing problem of physician burnout.”

“We again urge our policymakers to improve this environment through a variety of means including legislation to bring down the costs of liability insurance, reform of abusive health plan prior authorization policies, audit tactics, and claims payment. All these factors are driving physicians out of community practice in New York and leading to further consolidation and reduced care options for our patients. At the same time, we must not make this problem worse. We again thank the Senate and Assembly for recommending rejection of short-sighted Budget proposals that would decimate funding for the Excess Medical Malpractice Insurance Program and curtail physician rights to appeal health plan underpayments to a fair IDR dispute resolution process.”

“We look forward to working with our legislators and the Governor to help ensure patients can receive the timely quality care they need by working to improve New York’s physician practice environment.”

MSSNY Announces Virtual CME at MSSNY 2026 House of Delegates Registration

Be sure to register to participate in MSSNY’s virtual CME Day launching the 2026 House of Delegates meeting! Earn up to 4 *AMA PRA Category 1 credits*™ on March 26th. MSSNY is offering four CME webinars during the 2026 House of Delegates on **Thursday March 26th from 7:30a.m. - 12:00p.m.** Click on each topic to register.

7:30-8:30am

[Health Equity: Acronyms vs. Culture: A Review of Healthcare History in the USA](#)

Faculty: Louis Auguste, MD, MPH

8:40-9:40am

[Veterans Matters: Suicide in Veterans](#)

Faculty: Thomas Madejski, MD

(Funding provided through the New York State Office of Mental Health from a NYS Senate Legislative Grant)

9:50 – 10:50am

[Medical Matters: Choose Your Own Misadventure](#)

**Faculty: Arthur Cooper, MD
Craig Katz, MD
William Valenti, MD**

(This program is supported in whole by a DHHS grant entitled New York State Hospital Preparedness Program)

11:00am – 12:00pm

[David B.L. Meza, III, MD Series on Physician Wellness](#)

Faculty: Pamela Buchanan, MD

Accreditation Statement: The Medical Society of the State of New York is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Volume 36, No. 1, March 20, 2026

The Medical Society of the State of New York designates each live activity for a maximum of 1.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 credits*[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

In the afternoon of March 26, please also plan to participate in the 3 hours of additional CME programming being offered by the [MLMIC Insurance Company](#), including programs on AI use in healthcare delivery, addressing language barriers in healthcare delivery and a healthcare law update.

(HOFFMAN)