

2023–2024 COUNCIL OF DC ADVOCACY REPORT

*Summary of physician
community successes in
the 25th Council*



Note from MSDC Advocacy Chair

Dr. Klint
Peebles

MSDC Advocacy
Committee Chair

On behalf of current MSDC President Dr. Winston and Immediate Past President Dr. Patel, thank you to the physician community for your support during the 25th Council of DC session. These past two years have seen major victories because of your work, and DC is a better place to practice medicine because of your work. While the 26th Council period will have some unique challenges, the work you did these past two years lay the groundwork for future success.

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Bills supported
by MSDC
passed



0

new CME
requirements
passed the
Council



65%

MSDC
supported bills
becoming law



*New for MSDC
advocacy is the
Physicians Visit the
Council Day. Held
annually, this event
allows physicians
and medical
students to visit
Councilmembers
and staff to
advocate for health
priorities*

MSDC Mission and Values

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Vision

To make the District of Columbia the nation's model for patient care and physician practice.

Core Values

- Quality
- Equity
- Compassion

Mission

To ensure physician and patient well-being in the District of Columbia through the promotion of high-quality accessible care in a changing healthcare environment.

MSDC Commitment to Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, and Belonging

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MSDC respects, welcomes, and celebrates all people and their diverse identities. We recognize the negative impact of health inequity across all facets of society. We are committed to working toward elimination of bias and healthcare disparities wherever they exist with the goal of ensuring that everyone belongs.

Our communities will flourish when we mutually celebrate and champion our unique strengths and diverse backgrounds.

Prior Authorization

04



B25-124 was introduced in February 2023 by Councilmember Brooke Pinto. Guided by AMA best principles and led by MSDC, the bill received a hearing May 2023 where physicians spoke out in favor of the legislation. It passed the Council that fall and became law in February 2024.

In 2024, MSDC led the charge to ensure the law applied to **all** insurers. The original bill only applied to private insurers but the FY25 District budget included funding for the Medicaid and Alliance program to fund the law's requirements. As of October, all District residents - regardless of insurance - are protected from insurance abuse by a law that is among the most pro-medicine in the country.

In 2025 and beyond, MSDC will continue to push for updates to reflect changes in medicine. This monumental law would not be possible without organized medicine working together to share why prior authorization is abused by insurers and how that impacts patients.

Scope of Practice

05



In the fall of 2023, DC Health unveiled long-awaited reforms to the statute governing health licensing. As part of the bill, DC Health pushed for major scope of practice expansions for most professions. Egregious examples included allowing podiatrists to operate on wrists, chiropractors to order medical tests, and pharmacists to offer medical advice on STIs and HIV.

Thanks to assistance from the AMA Scope of Practice Partnership, the DC “house of medicine” rallied together to create a coalition opposing the scope of practice expansion provisions in B25-545. While not every provision was removed, the quick work by physicians ensured many offensive provisions were removed. People interested can learn more at msdc.org/scope.

Already DC Health is drafting regulations on new scope of practice expansions based on the law, so MSDC remains vigilant in protecting patient care.

MSDC Members Testified – A Lot



MSDC Supported Bills That Passed

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- B25-34: Expanding Access to Fertility Treatment Act
- B25-124: Prior Authorization Reform Amendment Act
- B25-141: Copay Accumulator Amendment Act
- B25-229: Cost Free Coverage for Prostate Cancer Screening Amendment Act
- B25-312: Health Professional Licensing Boards Residency Requirement Amendment Act
- B25-570: CPR Amendment Act
- B25-571: Seizure-Safe Schools Amendment Act
- CER 25-141: Lung Cancer Awareness Month Recognition Resolution
- B25-955: Child Marriage Prohibition Amendment Act

Other Advocacy Wins

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Legislation

- MSDC members pushed for introduction of the now-law copay accumulators act.
- The Council passed a resolution recognizing Lung Cancer Awareness month and specifically praising MSDC's work in lung health and smoking-cessation efforts.
- MSDC successfully defeated legislation to require physicians to take CME on violence as part of the license renewal.

Bowser Admin

- MSDC was invited to participate in the DC Healthcare Workforce Task Force and Opioid Abatement Task Force.
- The MSDC Board held two meetings at DC Health to discuss top organizational priorities.
- MSDC broke the news about changes to the medical license renewal timeline.
- In 2023, MSDC successfully advocated for regional medical license reciprocity

Get Involved

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MSDC



(202) 466-1800
Phone

hay@msdc.org
Email

msdc.org/advocacy
Website

1455 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Ste 400
Washington DC 20004

Address