

MSMS Legislative Update **June 21, 2013**

Use this sheet to refresh your memory before you speak with your lawmakers about some “hot” health policy issues that are likely to be addressed during the fall session.

MEDICAID EXPANSION (HEALTHY MICHIGAN BILL) – Legislators went home for the summer without advancing HB 4714, introduced by Rep. Matt Lori (R-Constantine), which seeks to expand Medicaid eligibility to cover more than 400,000 uninsured citizens. The Senate didn’t have enough Republican support for it to get a floor vote before summer break. The current version of the bill requests a waiver from the federal government allowing those in the expanded Medicaid program who are between 100% and 133% of the poverty level to purchase private insurance through the health exchange or increase cost sharing requirements to 7% of income while still in the program. MSMS will continue throughout the summer to work with the Senate to craft a new solution that continues to put patients first, helping more families receive the health care that they so desperately need while being responsible with residents’ tax dollars.

NURSE SCOPE EXPANSION - MSMS Government Relations staff and lobbyists have been advocating tirelessly at the Capitol on Senate Bill 2, introduced by Sen. Mark Jansen (R-Grand Rapids), which aims to make sweeping changes to the Public Health Code to authorize nurse practitioners to diagnose, treat, and write potentially dangerous prescriptions—all without adequate education or training, and without even collaborating with a physician, putting patients at serious risk. The bill was voted out of committee, but has yet to be taken up on the Senate floor.

AUTO NO-FAULT REFORM – The House Insurance Committee passed House Bill 4612, introduced by Committee Chair Rep. Pete Lund (R-Shelby Twp.). The bill will essentially gut Michigan’s model auto no-fault law and replace it with a dangerous system that relies instead on expensive lawsuits, higher health insurance premiums for families and a cost shift from insurance companies onto the state’s cash-strapped Medicaid system. MSMS, as part of the Coalition Protecting Auto No-Fault (CPAN), strongly opposes the measure. CPAN President John Cornack made the case against auto no-fault reform in a March/April *Michigan Medicine* article. The bill has not yet had a House floor vote.

PATIENT’S RIGHT TO KNOW - MSMS helped launch new legislation in April introduced by Rep. Gail Haines (R-Waterford) that requires medical professionals to wear and display their credentials both in the office and/or hospital, as well as in any advertising promoting their services. Nicknamed “Patient’s Right to Know,” the bill aims to empower patients by giving them the most accurate information about whom is treating them and what their health care provider is trained and licensed to do. The bill remains in the House Health Policy Committee, which Rep. Haines chairs.

EXPEDITED PARTNER THERAPY – MSMS helped coordinate, along with several other health organizations and state lawmakers, a news conference in May to support a bill that would promote expedited partner therapy (EPT), which is the practice of treating the sex partners of persons with the sexually transmitted diseases chlamydia and gonorrhea without an intervening medical evaluation. Representative George Darany (D-Dearborn) reintroduced HB 4736 from last year at the urging of many public health physicians in Michigan. Health Policy Committee Chair Rep. Gail Haines (R-Waterford Twp.) also supports the measure. The legislation is still on the House Floor.

For more information about MSMS legislative advocacy efforts, contact Colin Ford at MSMS at 517-336-5737 or cford@msms.org. Also, visit www.msms.org/advocacy.