MSMS
MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

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ADVOCATING FOR YOU: YOUR MSMS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2026 MID-YEAR UPDATE

By the Numbers – January to July 2026

MSMS continues to serve as a strong and strategic voice for Michigan physicians — whether in committee rooms, legislative chambers, or through grassroots member advocacy.

237 Bills Monitored

5 Legislative Testimonies

388 Advocacy Emails Sent

33 Physicians at Advocacy Day

29 Meetings with Lawmakers

15 Legislative Coalition Meetings Attended

13 Physician Lobbyist Group Meetings

Modernizing Physician Licensure with House Bill 5313

Testimony Date: February 4, 2026

Status: Passed House Health Policy 15-0, referred to House Committee on Rules

MSMS-supported House Bill 5313 would modernize Michigan's physician licensing and disciplinary processes while maintaining patient protections. The legislation would reduce administrative burdens, lower the CME requirement from 150 to 75 hours every three years, and provide greater flexibility to address unintentional CME deficiencies and past disciplinary records.

MSMS testified in support of the bill before the House Health Policy Committee, emphasizing the impact of regulatory burdens on physician retention, access to care, and practice sustainability. The Michigan Osteopathic Association has since taken a position in opposition, citing concerns that the proposed CME reduction is too significant. MSMS strongly disagrees, noting that the 75-hour requirement brings Michigan more in line with national norms and does not represent a lowering of professional standards. MSMS takes seriously any suggestion that the legislation would compromise physician standards or patient safety.

MSMS is also working with the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) to address concerns regarding proposed changes to the disciplinary process. MSMS welcomes the opportunity to engage with the Department to improve the system while ensuring it works effectively and fairly for Michigan physicians.

MSMS expects HB 5313 to receive a vote in the House Rules Committee this fall, followed by consideration by the full House. MSMS will continue advocating for the legislation as it advances through the legislative process.

Standing Firm Against Scope Expansion and Protecting Physician-Led Care

Status: House Committee on Rules

MSMS advocacy has kept HB 4399 from moving for more than a year, a significant reflection of our continued efforts to protect patient safety and physician-led, team-based care. The bill would allow nurse practitioners to practice independently—including prescribing controlled substances and supervising other health professionals—without physician oversight.

While HB 4399 remains stalled, new scope-expansion threats continue to emerge. HB 5522 would grant physician assistant independence, while HB 5446 would establish naturopathic licensure in Michigan. These proposals reinforce the need for continued vigilance and strong advocacy to ensure changes to scope of practice are driven by patient safety and evidence—not political expediency.

MSMS remains fully engaged and will continue working with legislators and stakeholders to protect Michigan patients and preserve high-quality, physician-led care. The post-November lame-duck session could bring renewed efforts to advance HB 4399 or other scope-expansion legislation, depending on the outcome of the elections. MSMS will be watching closely and will be prepared to respond.

Protecting Healthcare Workers from Workplace Violence

Testimony Date: June 3, 2026

Status: House Judiciary Committee

MSMS continues to advocate for legislation addressing the growing threat of workplace violence against healthcare workers.

House Bills 4532, 4533, and 4534 would strengthen protections by increasing penalties for assaults against healthcare workers and creating an assisted outpatient treatment diversion program for certain individuals experiencing mental illness.

MSMS Board Chair Brad Uren, MD, testified before the House Judiciary Committee, highlighting the significant impact of workplace violence on healthcare professionals, patient care, and workforce stability. MSMS supports meaningful measures to improve safety and accountability while recognizing the need for effective prevention strategies alongside criminal penalties.

The bills remain under committee review, with substitute language being developed to address concerns raised by legislators. MSMS will continue working with lawmakers and stakeholders to advance solutions that make Michigan healthcare settings safer for physicians, healthcare workers, and patients.

Increasing Michigan's Investment in Primary Care

On June 24, MSMS co-hosted a legislative Lunch and Learn with the Milbank Memorial Fund, Michigan Multipayer Initiatives, University of Michigan School of Public Health, and bipartisan Representatives Matt Longjohn and Doug Wozniak. Titled Investing in Primary Care in Michigan, the event brought together legislators, health policy experts, and healthcare leaders to highlight the urgent need to strengthen Michigan's primary care system. The message was clear: greater investment in primary care can improve outcomes, better manage chronic disease, expand access, and lower overall healthcare costs.

The discussion highlighted that only 5–6 percent of Michigan's total healthcare spending goes toward primary care, while access continues to worsen. Speakers also shared successful approaches from Michigan and other states and emphasized the importance of adequately funded, team-based care to strengthen the physician workforce and increase patient capacity.

MSMS is actively working with legislators and healthcare partners to advance policies that increase investment in primary care, strengthen Michigan's physician workforce, and ensure timely access to comprehensive, high-quality care for all Michigan residents.

Policy Pulse: Where Key Bills Stand Mid-Year

- **HB 4072 – *Support***
  Allow patients to take home unused eye drops; signed into law July 21, 2026.
- **HBs 4077 & 4078 – *Support***
  Modify death record certification process; signed into law March 18, 2026.
- **HB 5455 – *Support***
  Re-enroll Michigan in the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact; signed into law April 14, 2026.
- **HB 4309 – *Monitor***
  Join Interstate PA Licensure Compact; signed into law July 29, 2026.
- **SB 144 – *Neutral***
  Expand direct access to physical therapy; passed Senate unanimously; approved by House Health Policy, awaiting House vote.
- **HBs 5254 & 5255 (companion bills to SB 701, 702) – *Support***
  Consumer protections for medical debt; approved by House, transmitted to Senate.
- **SB 701 & 702 (companion bills to HB 5254, 5255) – *Support***
  Consumer protections for medical debt; approved by Senate, transmitted House.
- **HBs 6116, 6117, 6118, 6119 – *Monitor***
  Create a Hospital Cost Review Board, create penalties for violating certain measures, regulate certain hospital mergers, prohibit certain physician non-compete clauses; referred to Committee on Government Operations.
- **SBs 3, 4, & 5 – *Support***
  Create Prescription Drug Affordability Board; passed Senate 20–15, sent to House Government Operations.
- **SBs 219, 220, 221, and 222 – *Monitor***
  Update mental health hospitalization procedures; passed Senate unanimously, sent to House Health Policy.

Come Advocate With Us!

- *Sign up for **Doctor of the Day** on a day that's convenient for you to connect with your legislators.*
- *Save the date: **2027 MSMS Advocacy Day**, Wednesday, April 28, 2027.*

Our advocacy is making a difference. Thank you for staying engaged — our collective voice continues to shape Michigan's healthcare future.

Follow along at https://www.msms.org/advocacy for our legislative agenda and bill tracking updates.

Click here to find your legislators and be sure to visit the MSMS Grassroots Action Center to share your thoughts on key issues!

Questions or feedback? Let's connect!

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