

ADVOCATING FOR YOU: YOUR MSMS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2025 YEAR-END REPORT

By the Numbers – January to December 2025

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



345

Bills Monitored



26

Legislative Testimonies



4,927

Advocacy Emails Sent



28

Physicians at Advocacy Day



78

Meetings w/ Lawmakers

State Budget Update: Major Federal Shifts Impact Health Funding

Enacted; FY 2026 Budget. Signed by Governor Whitmer

Michigan's newly signed state budget includes substantial changes to the Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), whose \$30 billion allocation represents a 20 percent reduction driven primarily by federal policy changes in H.R. 1. The federal legislation tightens eligibility rules and phases out billions in Medicaid funding over the next decade, creating a significant long-term shortfall for the state.

To offset the decline, Michigan increased its General Fund contribution to MDHHS by 6.2 percent; however, this increase does not fully bridge the gap created by federal funding losses. The budget's largest pressure point stems from new federal restrictions on "provider taxes," historically used by hospitals and insurers to generate federal matching dollars.

As an interim measure, the state placed more than \$9 billion into contingency funds while it seeks a federal waiver that would permit release of those dollars. The budget also maintains approximately \$6.4 million in ongoing support for the MIDOCS program. Although last year's one-time \$4.6 million enhancement, totaling \$11 million, was not renewed, this continued investment ensures MIDOCS can sustain its work expanding residency training capacity and strengthening physician access in underserved communities statewide.



Legislative Snapshot: Major Measures at the Mid-Cycle Point

Tackling the Crisis of Physician Burnout

Testimony Date: April 15, 2025

► Status: Presentation to House Oversight Subcommittee on Public Health and Food Security

In a high-impact presentation to lawmakers, MSMS testified before the House Oversight Subcommittee to address the growing crisis of **physician burnout**. A diverse panel of medical leaders, legal experts, and a medical student highlighted: excessive administrative burdens, stigma around mental health, financial pressures, and outdated regulatory practices.

MSMS called for targeted reforms to strengthen Michigan's healthcare workforce, including modernizing licensing and expanding support for physician well-being. Lawmakers expressed strong interest and MSMS is working to turn that momentum into meaningful legislative change.

Standing Firm Against House Bill 4399 and Unsafe Scope Expansion

Testimony Dates: Wednesday, April 30, 2025; Wednesday, May 7, 2025; Wednesday, May 14, 2025

► Status: Approved by House Health Policy; Referred to House Rules

MSMS advocacy **meaningfully slowed momentum on HB 4399**, which would allow nurse practitioners to practice independently—**without physician oversight**—including prescribing controlled substances and supervising other health professionals. MSMS responded swiftly and fervently:

- Organized expert testimony from physicians, patients, and legal experts
- Emphasized risks to patient safety and care quality
- Advocated for preserving team-based, physician-led care

While advocacy efforts have slowed the bill's trajectory, the threat of future action on the bill has not stopped. MSMS continues to oppose unsafe scope expansion and to advocate for policy solutions that expand access without compromising physician-led, team-based care. Contact your legislators now to let them know this bill is not the right answer for Michigan.

Advancing Health Licensing Reform to Prevent Stigma

Testimony Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025

► Status: Passed House 99-4, sent to Senate

On December 17, the House passed **House Bill 4277** (Rep. Matthew Bierlein)—a long-standing MSMS priority. The bill would bar invasive questions about mental health history from physician licensure and renewal forms, focusing instead on **current fitness to practice**.

This change directly addresses the stigma that prevents physicians from seeking mental health care, offering reassurance that getting help won't cost them their license. MSMS has strongly supported this legislation since its introduction and will continue to push for full passage of this critical reform in 2026.

Reducing Barriers to Opioid Use Disorder Treatment

Testimony Date: Wednesday, June 18, 2025 - MSMS submitted cards of support for Senate Bills 397-399; Cara Poland, MD, testified on behalf of the entire Opioid Stewardship Collaborative

► Status: SB 397 Passed Senate 36 – 0; SB 398 Awaiting Senate Vote; SB 399 Passed Senate 33-3; SB 400 Passed Senate 36-0; SB 401 Passed Senate 34-2; SB 402 Passed Senate 31-5; SB 403 Passed Senate 34-2; Transmitted bills referred to House Committee on Insurance

The **Senate Health Policy Committee** took up a comprehensive package of bills (Senate Bills 397-405) aimed at **expanding access to treatment for individuals diagnosed with opioid use disorder (OUD)**. MSMS, working with a broad coalition of groups including physicians, pharmacists, hospitals, other health care providers, veterinarians, and health plans, played a key role in shaping the discussion and improving the legislation. The coalition is **conceptually supportive** of the bill package and has been providing detailed feedback to refine language and ensure the bills have a real impact on patient access and public health outcomes.

MSMS took a position of support on SBs 397, 398, 399. Subsequently, the committee adopted several of our recommendations and MSMS is now supportive of 400, 401, 402, and 403. Because SBs 404 and 405 are focused on requiring actions by school districts, MSMS and our partner coalition chose not to take a position; deferring instead to the subject-matter experts in that field.

All bills but SB 398 have been **approved by the Senate** and are now under consideration in the **House Committee on Insurance**.

MSMS will continue to advocate for legislation that removes unnecessary barriers and ensures those affected by OUD have access to the care and support they need.

Questions or feedback? Let's connect!

Contact Kate Dorsey, Director of Government Relations,
Michigan State Medical Society at kdorsey@msms.org

Modernizing Michigan's Health Licensing System

Testimony Date: TBD

► **Status: Introduced by Rep. Matthew Bierlien; House Health Policy Committee**

House Bill 5313 reflects a collaborative effort between MSMS and legislative leadership to update Michigan's health licensing framework and reduce unnecessary regulatory burden. After months of joint analysis, MSMS and Rep. Bierlein identified two major pressure points for physicians: unusually high CME requirements and a disciplinary process that can impose long-lasting consequences for minor administrative errors. The bill delivers three significant reforms:

- **CME Reduction** – Cuts CME requirements from 150 to 75 hours every three years, aligning Michigan with national standards.
- **Mandated Topic Review** – Establishes a mandatory five-year review of required CME topics and clear criteria for adding new ones.
- **Set-Aside Process** – Creates a pathway for certain minor administrative sanctions to be removed from public view and the National Practitioner Data Bank after seven years of full compliance.

Together, these changes modernize outdated rules, promote fairness, and support workforce retention without compromising patient safety.

MSMS Joins the Alliance for Legal Reform

As part of its ongoing efforts to safeguard Michigan's medical liability laws and preserve a stable legal environment for physicians and patients, the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) joined the Michigan Alliance for Legal Reform.

MSMS recognized that recent court rulings and emerging legal trends threaten long-standing liability protections that are essential to controlling health care costs and maintaining access to care. By joining a broad, cross-sector coalition, MSMS aligned with organizations committed to restoring balance, predictability, and fairness to Michigan's legal system.

Through its participation in the Alliance, MSMS is working collaboratively to advance common-sense legal reforms that curb frivolous litigation and address legal abuses that drive up costs for providers and consumers alike. The coalition's focus on transparency, accountability, and judicial restraint directly supports MSMS's advocacy to protect medical liability safeguards and prevent destabilizing changes to established law. Together with fellow Alliance members, MSMS is helping to ensure Michigan's legal framework supports high-quality care, economic stability, and patient access for the long term.

Where MSMS Stands on Key Bills

From health data modernization to mental health reform, MSMS continues to shape legislative policy. Below is a snapshot of several key bills and our positions.

- **HBs 4037 & 4038 – Support**
Create a health data utility for Michigan. Approved by House Health Policy, awaiting floor action.
- **HB 4072 – Support**
Allow patients to take home unused eye drops. Passed House 109–0, sent to Senate Health Policy.
- **HBs 4077 & 4078 – Support**
Modify death record certification process. Passed House 106–2, sent to Senate Health Policy.
- **HBs 4306 & 4307 – Monitor**
Allow license exceptions after seizures. Passed House (106-2), approved by Senate Health Policy, awaiting Senate action.
- **HB 4309 – Monitor**
Join Interstate PA Licensure Compact. Passed House 103–3, sent to Senate Health Policy.
- **HBs 4418 & 4419 – Oppose as written**
Changes to MI's surrogate medical decision-making process. Passed House 98-0, sent to Senate Civil Rights, Judiciary, and Public Safety
- **HBs 4790 & 4791 – Support w/MSMS amendments**
Create educational programming for physicians related to menopause care. Approved by House Health Policy and sent to House Rules.
- **HB 4832 – Support**
Provide for licensure of anesthesiologist assistants. In House Health Policy.
- **SBs 3, 4, & 5 – Support**
Create Prescription Drug Affordability Board. Passed Senate 20–15, sent to House Government Operations.
- **SB 144 – Neutral**
Expand direct access to physical therapy. Passed Senate unanimously, sent to House Health Policy.
- **SBs 219, 220, 221, and 222 – Monitor**
Update mental health hospitalization procedures. Passed Senate unanimously, sent to House Health Policy.
- **SB 244 – Monitor**
Mandate seizure reporting by physicians. Awaits Senate Health Policy vote.
- **SB 303 – Monitor**
Re-enter MI into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. Passed Senate unanimously, approved by House Health Policy, referred to House Rules.
- **SBs 397-405 – Support and Monitor**
Expand access to OUD and SUD treatment by removing barriers to treatment. Passed Senate with bipartisan support, sent to House Committee on Insurance.

What's Ahead?

MSMS remains committed to:

- ▶ Championing pro-physician legislation to help physicians better care for their patients
- ▶ Protecting physician-led, team-based care models
- ▶ Addressing physician burnout with real, structural change

Our advocacy is making a difference.

*Thank you for staying engaged –
our collective voice continues to shape
Michigan's healthcare future.*

Questions or feedback?

Contact Kate Dorsey, Director of Government Relations, Michigan State Medical Society, at kdorsey@msms.org

SAVE THE DATE

**MARCH 11, 2026 AT
THE STATE CAPITOL**

2026 MSMS ADVOCACY DAY

*Click QR code at right
to find your legislators
and plan to attend the
2026 MSMS Advocacy
Day on Wednesday,
March 11.*

