



AMA STATE ADVOCACY IMPACT REPORT

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

AMA Advocacy Resource Center

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“The AMA Advocacy Resource Center is an essential partner to state medical associations. Their legal and policy expertise, model legislation, and rapid-response support help our advocacy at every level. Additionally, they provide a national expertise not often found within the states.

The AMA team appreciates that state dynamics vary greatly, respects that all politics are local, and as a result helps us address the needs of our physicians and their patients.

MARTIN RANIOWSKI
CEO and Executive Vice President
Pennsylvania Medical Society

LETTER FROM THE CEO

To our physician community, colleagues and partners,

At the American Medical Association, we know the future of medicine is shaped in state capitols—not just in Washington, D.C. Every day, decisions at the state level impact how physicians care for patients and how our health care system works. That's why strong state advocacy is at the heart of our mission to promote the art and science of medicine and the betterment of public health.

We succeed because of our partnerships with state and specialty societies across the country. Together, we protect the patient-physician relationship and keep physician voices front and center. Our approach connects national strategy to state action. Through the AMA Advocacy Resource Center, we provide the tools, expertise and national perspective our partners need.

The data in this report shows what collaboration can achieve. We have fought against unsafe scope expansions, improved prior authorization, held payers accountable and supported physician well-being. Every win—big and small—reflects our shared strength.

Moving forward, we will tell our story with clarity and impact so that physicians, policymakers, and the public better understand our collective reach and effectiveness.

Thank you to our state and specialty partners and to the AMA Advocacy Resource Center team for your dedication. Together, we're building a stronger future for our profession and the patients we serve. I look forward to leading alongside you as we shape the next era of medicine.

Sincerely,

John Whyte, MD, MPH

CEO and Executive Vice President
American Medical Association



AMA ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER IN ACTION

The AMA Advocacy Resource Center is dedicated to working directly with national, state and specialty medical societies to enact state laws and regulations that protect patients and support physicians—and fight back against those that do not.

Rolling up our sleeves

As recognized national experts, we assist state policymakers and respond to the challenges posed by proposed laws and regulations. Through direct advocacy, counsel on best practices, model legislation, tools and resources, we address and champion the issues that matter to physicians and their patients.

Advocacy support all year long

Our attorneys provide medical societies with targeted support throughout the year. These efforts include assisting with legislative and regulatory drafting, testifying before legislative and regulatory committees, and meeting with legislators, regulators and national policymaking organizations.

State legislative tracking

With access to an enhanced legislative tracking service, our attorneys provide timely analysis on trends in state legislation nationwide, including legislative developments, bill status, sponsors and amendments.

Host state health policy conferences

We host two national health policy conferences: the AMA State Advocacy Summit and the AMA State Advocacy Roundtable. These meetings bring together medical associations, national leaders and other thought leaders in health care to discuss, develop and coordinate advocacy strategies and prepare for important issues on the horizon.

State advocacy campaign toolkits

The AMA Advocacy Resource Center develops and distributes research-driven tools that combine data, policy analysis and communication resources to strengthen state and national advocacy efforts.

“

The AMA Advocacy Resource Center staff work tirelessly in partnership with physicians and medical societies nationwide to unify the medical profession so medicine can speak with one clear, powerful voice to shape the health care policy landscape in every state across the nation for the betterment of patient care.”

KATIE O. ORRICO, JD
CEO, American Association of
Neurological Surgeons

AMA ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER BY THE NUMBERS

The AMA Advocacy Resource Center delivered **223 wins across all 50 states and Washington, D.C., in 2025** through tireless advocacy and strong collaboration with our partners.

“
The AMA Scope of Practice Partnership grant enabled us to build the coalition, research and messaging needed to successfully defeat unsafe scope of practice expansions. AMA’s legal analysis, library of resources and dedicated support were invaluable. ”

JULIE REED, JD
Executive Vice President
Indiana State Medical Association



Represented the AMA **100s** of times



Submitted **60+** written letters and testimonies



Provided **1000s** of hours of strategic counsel



Convened **30** webinars



Tracked **1000s** of bills



Analyzed policies **250+** times



Co-branded **100s** of tools



Collaborated on **15+** surveys



Spoke at **30+** meetings



Published **25** issue briefs

Strategic insight and analysis

- Tracked **1000s of bills**
- Analyzed legislation, regulation or policy **more than 250 times**
- Developed model legislation that was leveraged **over 40 times**
- Spoke at more than **30 meetings, conferences and webinars** on areas of expertise
- Published **25 issue briefs**
- Created **23 research-driven, turn-key advocacy tools**

Collaboration and counsel with medical society partners

- Provided **1000s of hours of strategic counsel**
- Co-branded **100s of tools** with national, state and specialty medical societies
- Provided direct, strategic counsel and one-on-one advocacy to medical society partners **190 times** and **shared AMA resources over 200 times**
- Convened medical society partners in **30 educational webinars**
- Awarded **19 AMA Scope of Practice Partnership grants**
- Collaborated on more than **15 surveys**

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

The best care and the safest health care outcomes for patients depend on health care teams working together—with physicians in the lead. Each year, the AMA Advocacy Resource Center works closely with state medical associations and national medical specialty societies to promote physician-led care and defeat legislative efforts that inappropriately expand the scope of practice of non-physicians.

National expertise and data-driven advocacy

The AMA Advocacy Resource Center combines data-driven research with national expertise to provide powerful resources that support physician-led care. We equip state medical associations with the resources they need—right when they need them—to shape the national narrative around patient access to high quality, physician-led care.

Cutting-edge resources:

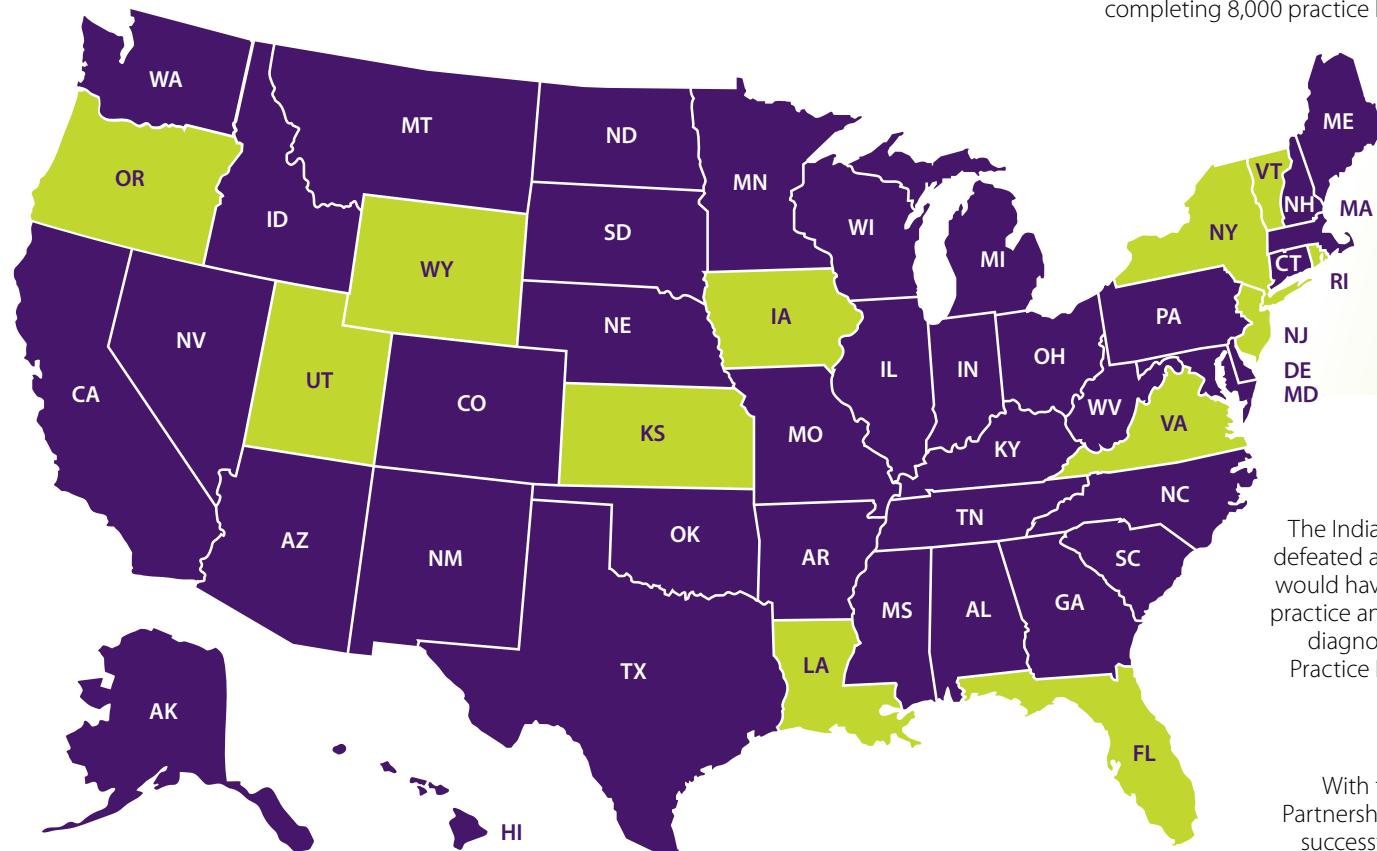
- Data series modules
- One-pagers
- GEOMAP data
- Scope wheels
- Media toolkit
- Social media graphics
- Patient surveys
- Health Workforce Mapper
- Issue briefs
- State laws charts

WASHINGTON

Washington defeated at least five scope of practice bills impacting naturopaths, psychologists and pharmacists, with the support of testimony and resources from the AMA.

NEW MEXICO

Cross-collaboration between the New Mexico Medical Society, the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the AMA led to the governor vetoing an optometrist surgery bill.



TEXAS
The Texas Medical Association defeated more than a dozen scope of practice expansion bills, including legislation that would have allowed APRNs to practice without any physician involvement, thanks to the support of an AMA Scope of Practice Partnership Grant.

 States in purple are where the AMA and state medical associations worked together to defeat scope of practice expansions in 2025.

MISSOURI

The Missouri State Medical Association successfully defeated all scope expansion bills in 2025 with the support of an AMA Scope of Practice Partnership Grant and use of AMA expert resources.

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi faced several scope bills this year, and the AMA worked particularly closely with the Mississippi State Medical Association to defeat one dangerous bill that would have allowed APRNs to practice independently after completing 8,000 practice hours.

In 2025, we worked with 35+ state medical associations and 10+ national specialty societies to defeat scope of practice legislation.

INDIANA

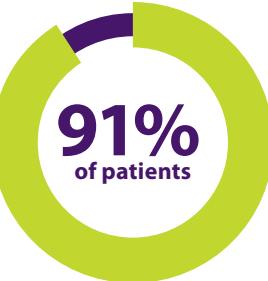
The Indiana State Medical Association successfully defeated all scope expansion bills, including bills that would have granted APRNs and CRNAs independent practice and pharmacists the ability to independently diagnose and treat patients. An AMA Scope of Practice Partnership Grant played an instrumental role in these victories.

ARIZONA

With the help of an AMA Scope of Practice Partnership Grant, the Arizona Medical Association successfully defeated numerous bills, including those that would have expanded the scope of practice of pharmacists, psychologists, physician assistants and naturopaths. It also defeated APRN Compact legislation.

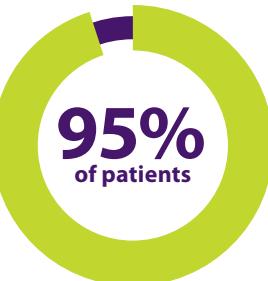
ALASKA

The AMA worked closely with the Alaska State Medical Association to defeat physician assistant and naturopath legislation.



say a physician's years of education and training are vital to optimal patient care.

95+ scope of practice bills defeated nationwide.



say it's important for a physician to be involved in their diagnosis and treatment decisions.

19 grants

provided by the AMA Scope of Practice Partnership in 2025.

\$5,000,000

in grants provided by the AMA Scope of Practice Partnership since its inception.

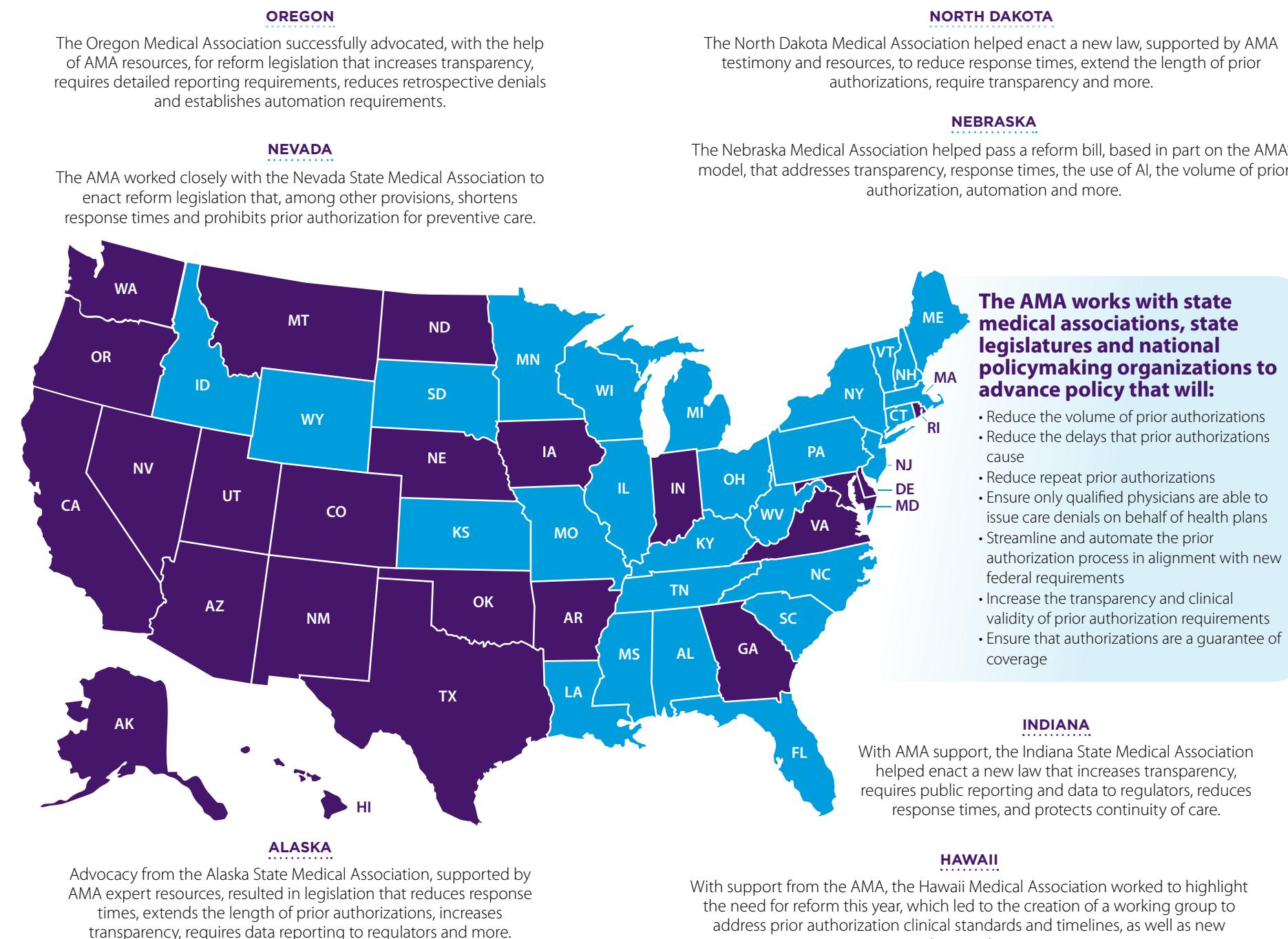
PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Prior authorization creates a barrier between patients and necessary care under the guise of controlling costs. This dangerous, overused tactic has woven its way into everyday medicine and is causing serious patient harm. The AMA advocates to right-size prior authorization and eliminate care delays, patient harms and physician burdens.

State-level victories spark national action

The AMA's state model legislation recently served as the foundation for a model bill adopted by the National Council of Insurance Legislators (NCOIL). This was the result of years of laying the groundwork with NCOIL and significant AMA engagement throughout the drafting process.

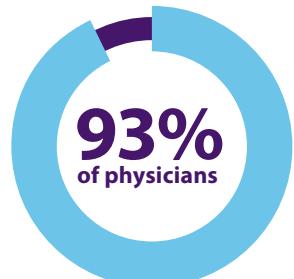
Additionally, the growing number of prior authorization reform efforts at the state level led the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) to draft a prior authorization white paper for state regulators. This is a positive development, though the AMA is urging NAIC to go even further in supporting state enforcement efforts and developing resources for regulators.



 States in purple passed prior authorization reform laws in 2025.

NORTH DAKOTA

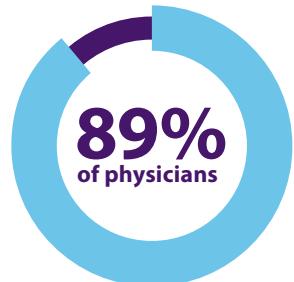
The North Dakota Medical Association helped enact a new law, supported by AMA testimony and resources, to reduce response times, extend the length of prior authorizations, require transparency and more.



report delays in care caused by prior authorization.

More than 1 in 4 physicians

report that prior authorization has led to a serious adverse event for a patient in their care.



report that prior authorization somewhat or significantly increases physician burnout.

23 states

passed legislation to reform prior authorization.

PHYSICIAN WELL-BEING

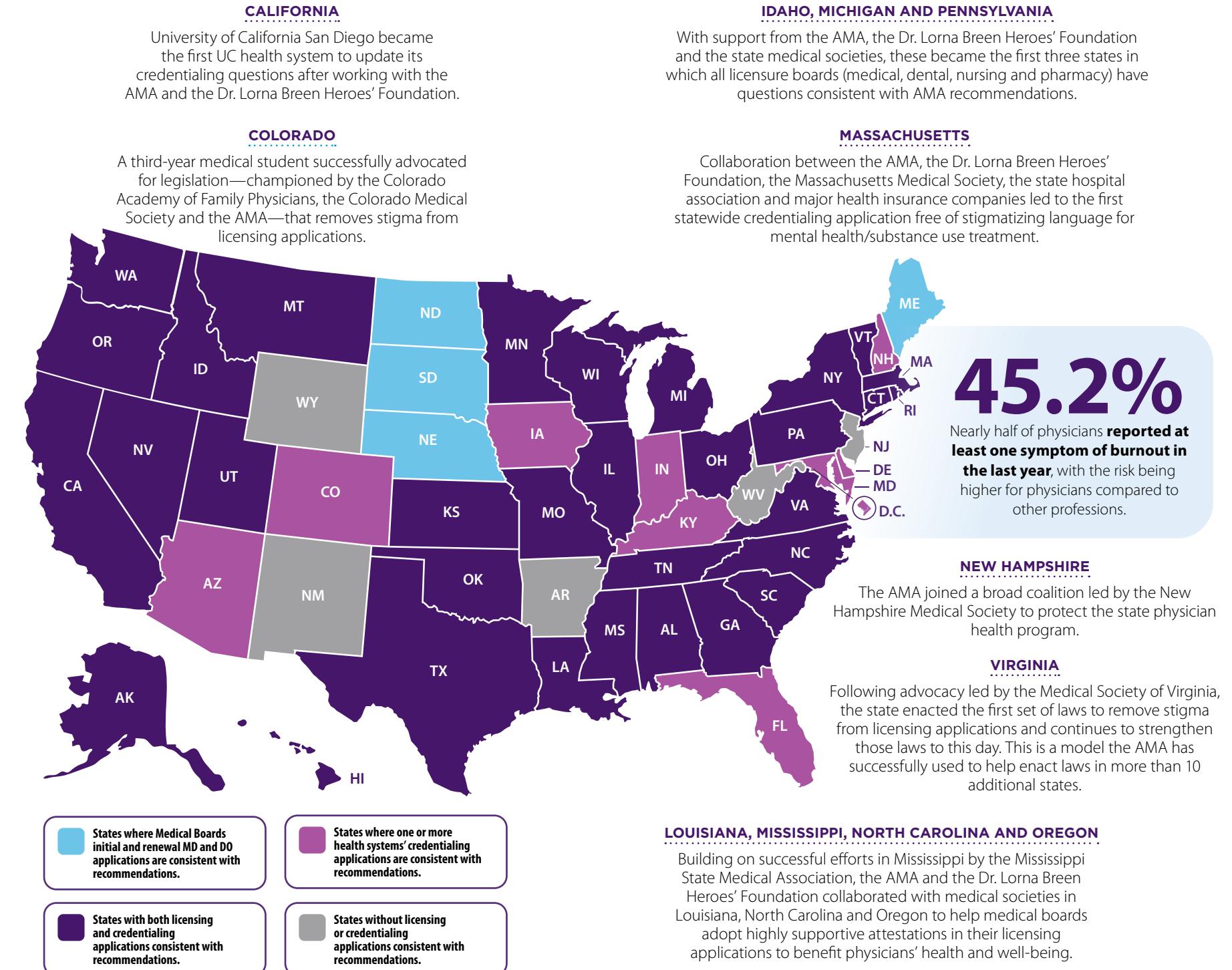
Physicians, residents and medical students should be able to seek and receive care for mental health or substance use without fear of stigma and with full confidentiality protections. The AMA strongly urges all licensing boards, hospitals, health systems, liability carriers and credentialing bodies to remove from their applications inappropriate questions about mental health and treatment for a substance use disorder that create unnecessary barriers to care.

Small changes making a big impact

What started out as a change made by a handful of states, health systems and hospitals has become a nationwide movement in just a few short years.

This success would not have been possible without the collaboration between the AMA, the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation, the Federation of State Medical Boards, the Federation of State Physician Health Programs, the National Association of Medical Staff Services and all the organizations that helped to make these changes a reality.

Nearly 200 health systems have taken their commitment to physician well-being even further and earned recognition in the AMA Joy in Medicine® Health System Recognition Program.



40 medical boards

and 1,800+ health systems, hospitals, medical centers, clinics and other facilities have verified their licensing or credentialing applications are free from stigmatizing questions as of September 2025.



2022 19

2025 40

In 2022, only 19 medical boards and a few dozen hospitals and health systems had reviewed their applications.

Three years later, that number has risen significantly.

2,000,000+

physicians and other licensed/credentialed health care professionals benefit from these reforms.

The AMA has been an extraordinary partner in advancing our shared mission to protect the well-being of physicians and all health care professionals.

COREY FEIST, JD, MBA
Co-founder and CEO,
Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation

AUGMENTED INTELLIGENCE

Augmented intelligence (AI) is reshaping the future of medicine, and state legislatures are responding rapidly to its promise and challenges. The AMA Advocacy Resource Center closely tracks legislative activity to identify key trends and uses this information to guide advocacy efforts and policy development around these issues.

Engaging with state policymakers at the national level

The AMA actively works with organizations like the National Conference of State Legislatures, NCOIL and NAIC.

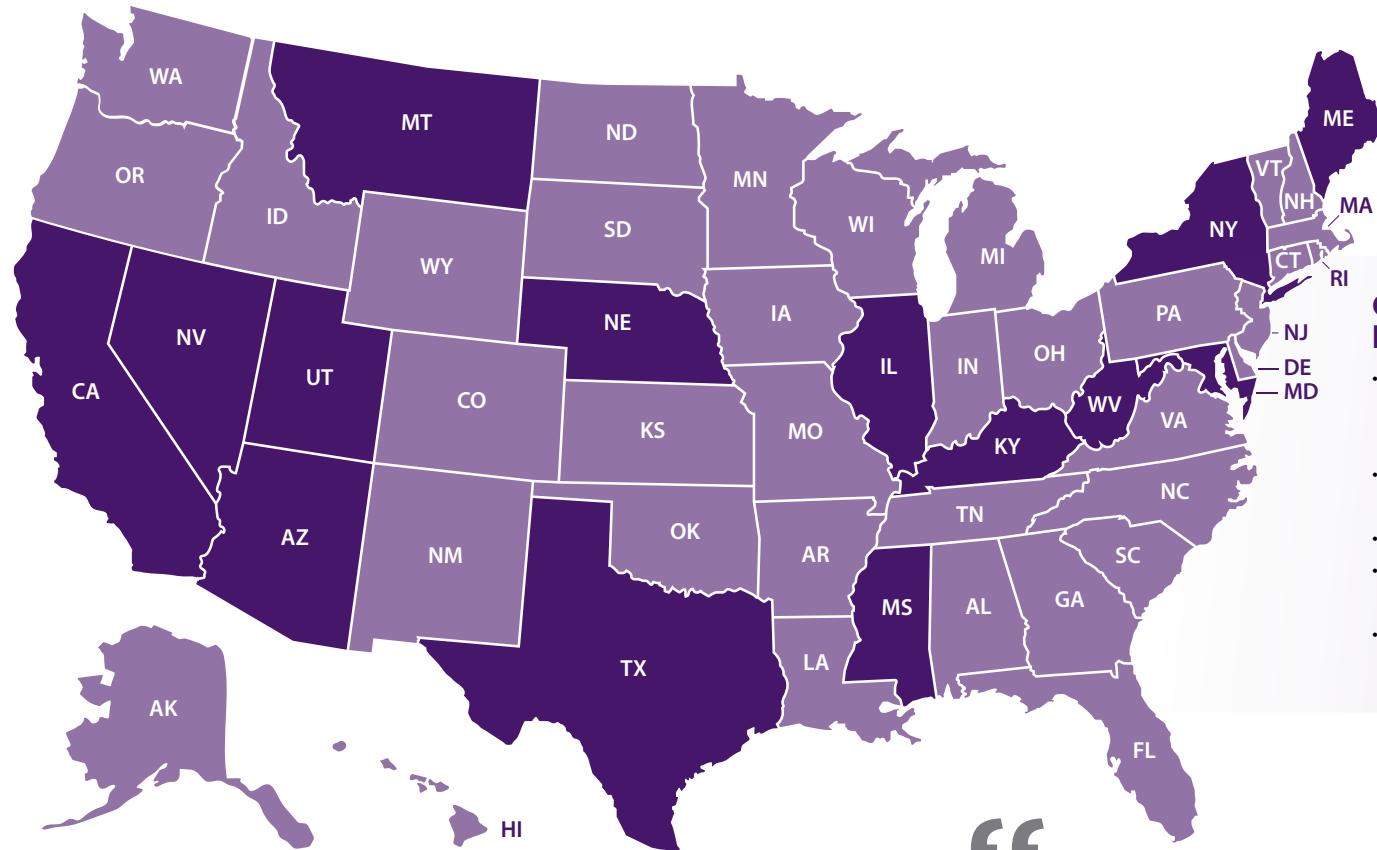
Through these collaborations, we ensure physician expertise drives AI-related policy decisions nationwide, and we help build legislative frameworks that advance the safe, transparent and equitable use of AI in health care.

States in dark purple passed health care AI legislation in 2025.

Empowering our partners

The AMA Advocacy Resource Center conducted two surveys of state medical associations and national specialty societies to better understand their needs on the evolving issue of AI. Both surveys revealed three key needs:

- Education about AI technology
- Practical guidance on legislative proposals
- Overarching policy direction



In response to those needs, the AMA published the AMA AI state advocacy and policy priorities issue brief prior to the start of the 2025 legislative session.

Additionally, the AMA continues to connect our partners with national experts on AI, such as Manatt, to give them the education and insights they need to engage on this topic.

Growing interest in state legislation on AI in health care

- Creation of task forces: Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, Montana, New York, Texas and West Virginia
- AI use by health plans and payers: Arizona, Maryland, Nebraska and Texas
- AI use in clinical care: Texas and Utah
- AI use in mental or behavioral health services: Illinois, Nevada and Utah
- AI-enabled chatbots: Maine, New York, California and Texas

“The AMA brings a critical physician and patient perspective to our Health Innovations Task Force. They ensure that our conversations about emerging state health policy innovations include the physician perspective and the real-life impact of policy on patient care.”

TIM STOREY
CEO, National Conference of State Legislatures

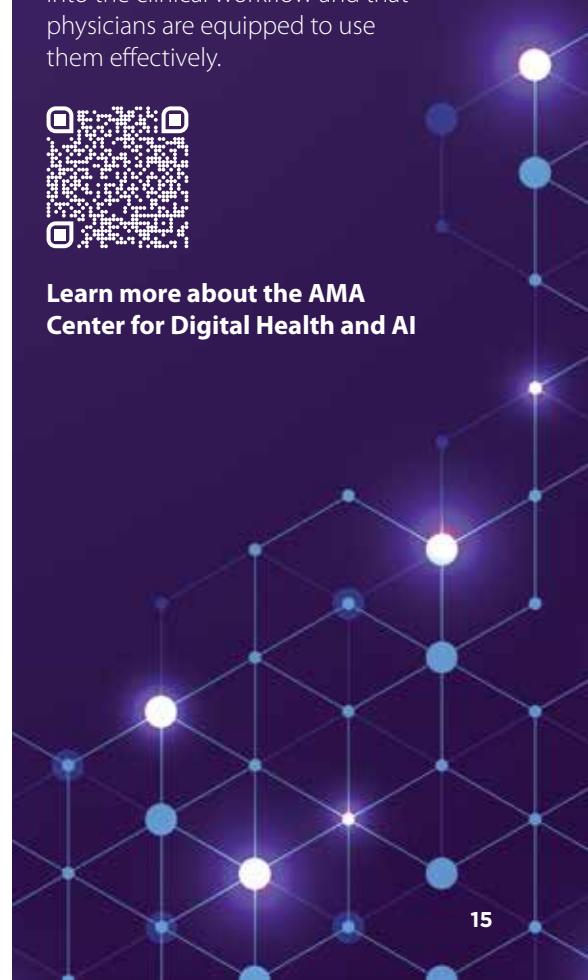
Launching the AMA Center for Digital Health and AI

In October, the AMA launched its Center for Digital Health and AI, a new endeavor that puts physicians at the center of shaping, guiding and implementing technologies transforming medicine.

The new center will tap the full potential of AI and digital health by embedding physicians throughout the lifecycle of technology development and deployment to ensure digital tools integrate seamlessly into the clinical workflow and that physicians are equipped to use them effectively.



Learn more about the AMA Center for Digital Health and AI

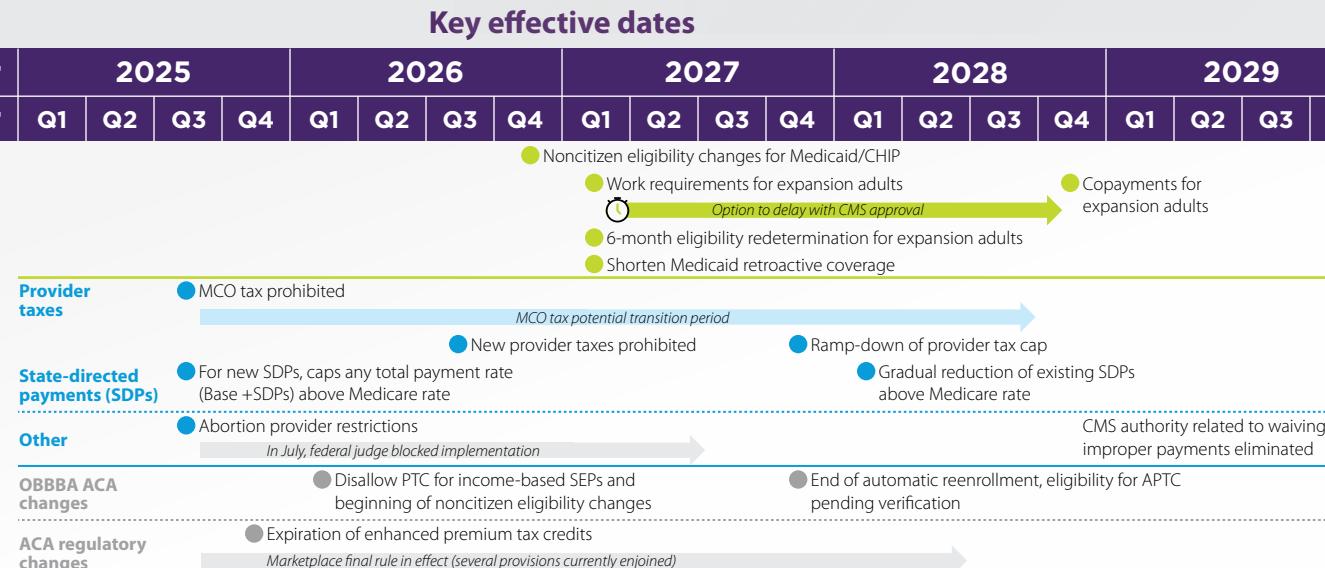


STATE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW FEDERAL MEDICAID AND MARKETPLACE CHANGES

With states implementing the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), the AMA Advocacy Resource Center is ensuring our partners and physicians have the support they need to navigate the change and mitigate harm to patients.

AMA IN ACTION

- **Convening state and specialty medical societies** to share information, strategize, and strengthen advocacy in every state to lessen the negative impacts on Medicaid and marketplace enrollees and physician practices.
- **Creating and sharing advocacy tools**, issue briefs, detailed legislative and regulatory summaries, and other resources addressing the impending funding cuts and policy changes to help physician advocates develop strategies to prevent coverage losses.
- **Providing resources, presentations, and webinars** to help physicians understand the impact of the changes on their patients and highlight opportunities to prevent coverage losses.



DRIVING CHANGE ACROSS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES IN HEALTH CARE

SUBSTANCE USE AND TREATMENT

The AMA Advocacy Resource Center works with medical societies, policymakers and other key stakeholders at the state and national level to increase access to evidence-based treatment for substance use disorders and pain.

AMA IN ACTION

- **Strengthened mental health and substance use disorder parity laws** in collaboration with medical societies in Colorado, Virginia and Washington.
- **Helped launch the Mental Health Parity Index**—a first-of-its-kind tool that identifies inequities in access, coverage and payment for mental health and substance use treatment services.
- **Increased awareness of naloxone** and its ability to save lives through a partnership with more than 10 medical societies.

CORPORATE INFLUENCE IN HEALTH CARE

Amidst the increased investment in health care by private equity firms and other corporate entities, the AMA Advocacy Resource Center has stepped up its efforts to protect the integrity of medical practice.

AMA IN ACTION

- **Developed “Legislative approaches to curb corporate influence in health care,”** a report and state law compendium detailing five legislative strategies states are employing to prevent undue corporate influence in health care.
- **Directly advised at least seven state medical associations** on the impact of anticipated or proposed legislation related to corporate ownership or the corporate practice of medicine.
- **Collaborated with nine states** on a survey of physicians that explored the forces driving physicians out of private practice and toward corporate partnership.

MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM

The AMA Advocacy Resource Center works with medical societies across the country to support state medical liability reforms.

AMA IN ACTION

- **Published the 2025 edition** of “Medical Liability Reform Now!”
- **Closely collaborated with at least eight states**, including working alongside the Florida Medical Association, to help secure a veto of legislation that would have expanded liability actions in wrongful death cases.

Our advocacy doesn't stop there

The AMA Advocacy Resource Center continues to collaborate with medical societies on a wide range of topics, including:

- **Fair contracting issues**
- **Medicaid**
- **Physician restrictive covenants**
- **Physician unionization**
- **Private payer reform**
- **Public health issues**
- **Reproductive health**
- **Telehealth**
- **Truth in Advertising**

And more!

YOUR CARE IS AT OUR CORE

In recent years, physicians have faced reputational challenges brought on by broader frustrations within the health care system.

In response, the AMA Advocacy Resource Center conducted extensive opinion research and developed a new campaign to remind the public and policymakers of physicians' core mission: caring for patients.

Since launching in 2024, the "Your Care is at Our Core" campaign has expanded to include 29 states and Washington, D.C. Its message has reached patients, physicians, and policymakers at the state and federal level:

920+
Social media posts

94.2K+
Social post reach

341K
Radio ad reach

30%
Increase in social followers

89% of patients agree that the doctor-patient relationship is important to health care. See how your state can get involved at ama-assn.org/YCOC

YOUR CARE IS AT OUR CORE
America's Physicians

YOUR CARE IS AT OUR CORE
Alabama Physicians

YOUR CARE IS AT OUR CORE

Nebraska Physicians

YOUR CARE IS AT OUR CORE

THE MATCH

YOUR CARE IS AT OUR CORE

Arkansas Physicians

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