



AMA STATE ADVOCACY IMPACT REPORT

2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

AMA Advocacy Resource Center



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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE CEO	4
AMA ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER IN ACTION	5
AMA ADVOCACY RESOURCE CENTER BY THE NUMBERS	6
SCOPE OF PRACTICE	8
PRIOR AUTHORIZATION	10
PHYSICIAN WELL-BEING	12
AUGMENTED INTELLIGENCE	14
STATE IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW FEDERAL MEDICAID AND.....	16
MARKETPLACE CHANGES	
DRIVING CHANGE ACROSS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES	17
IN HEALTH CARE	
YOUR CARE IS AT OUR CORE	18
MORE WAYS WE'RE MAKING AN IMPACT	19

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.



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

Guidance to policymakers

- Represented the AMA before state legislators, regulatory bodies, expert advisory groups, national policymaking organizations and thought leaders, including one-on-one meetings, presentations and testimony **100s of times**
- Submitted more than **60 letters**, testimony and other written recommendations

“

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

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**

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**

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.

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.

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

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.

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 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.



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.

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.

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

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



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

provided by the AMA Scope of Practice Partnership in 2025.

**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.

OREGON

The Oregon Medical Association successfully advocated, with the help of AMA resources, for reform legislation that increases transparency, requires detailed reporting requirements, reduces retrospective denials and establishes automation requirements.

NEVADA

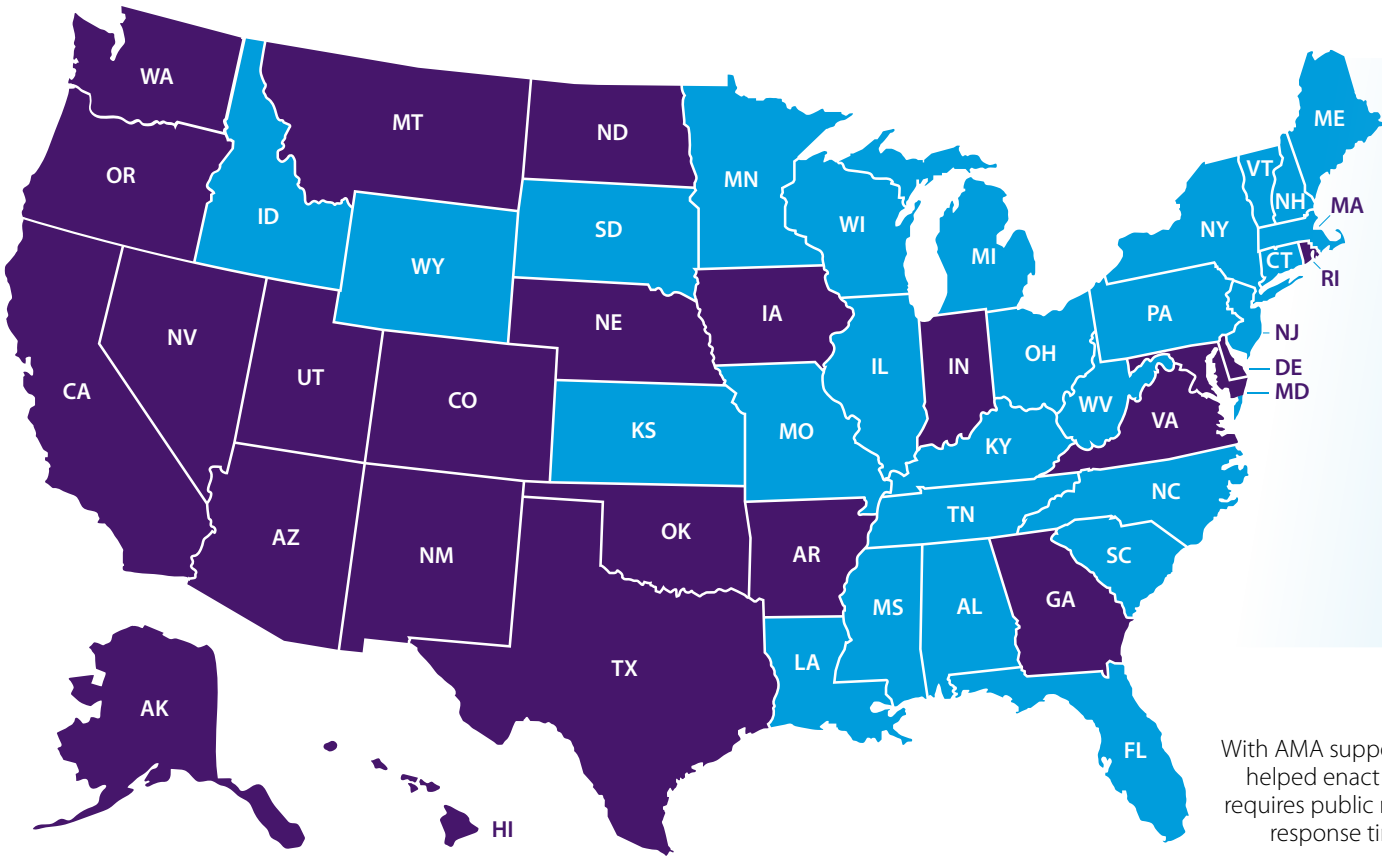
The AMA worked closely with the Nevada State Medical Association to enact reform legislation that, among other provisions, shortens response times and prohibits prior authorization for preventive care.

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.

NEBRASKA

The Nebraska Medical Association helped pass a reform bill, based in part on the AMA's model, that addresses transparency, response times, the use of AI, the volume of prior authorization, automation and more.



ALASKA

Advocacy from the Alaska State Medical Association, supported by AMA expert resources, resulted in legislation that reduces response times, extends the length of prior authorizations, increases transparency, requires data reporting to regulators and more.

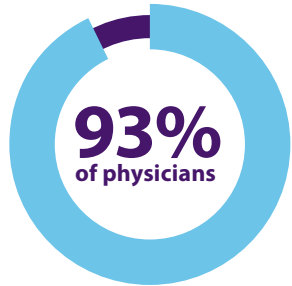
INDIANA

With AMA support, the Indiana State Medical Association helped enact a new law that increases transparency, requires public reporting and data to regulators, reduces response times, and protects continuity of care.

HAWAII

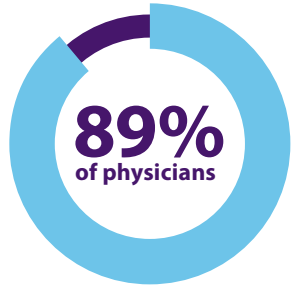
With support from the AMA, the Hawaii Medical Association worked to highlight the need for reform this year, which led to the creation of a working group to address prior authorization clinical standards and timelines, as well as new reporting requirements.

States in purple passed prior authorization reform laws in 2025.



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.

CALIFORNIA

University of California San Diego became the first UC health system to update its credentialing questions after working with the AMA and the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation.

COLORADO

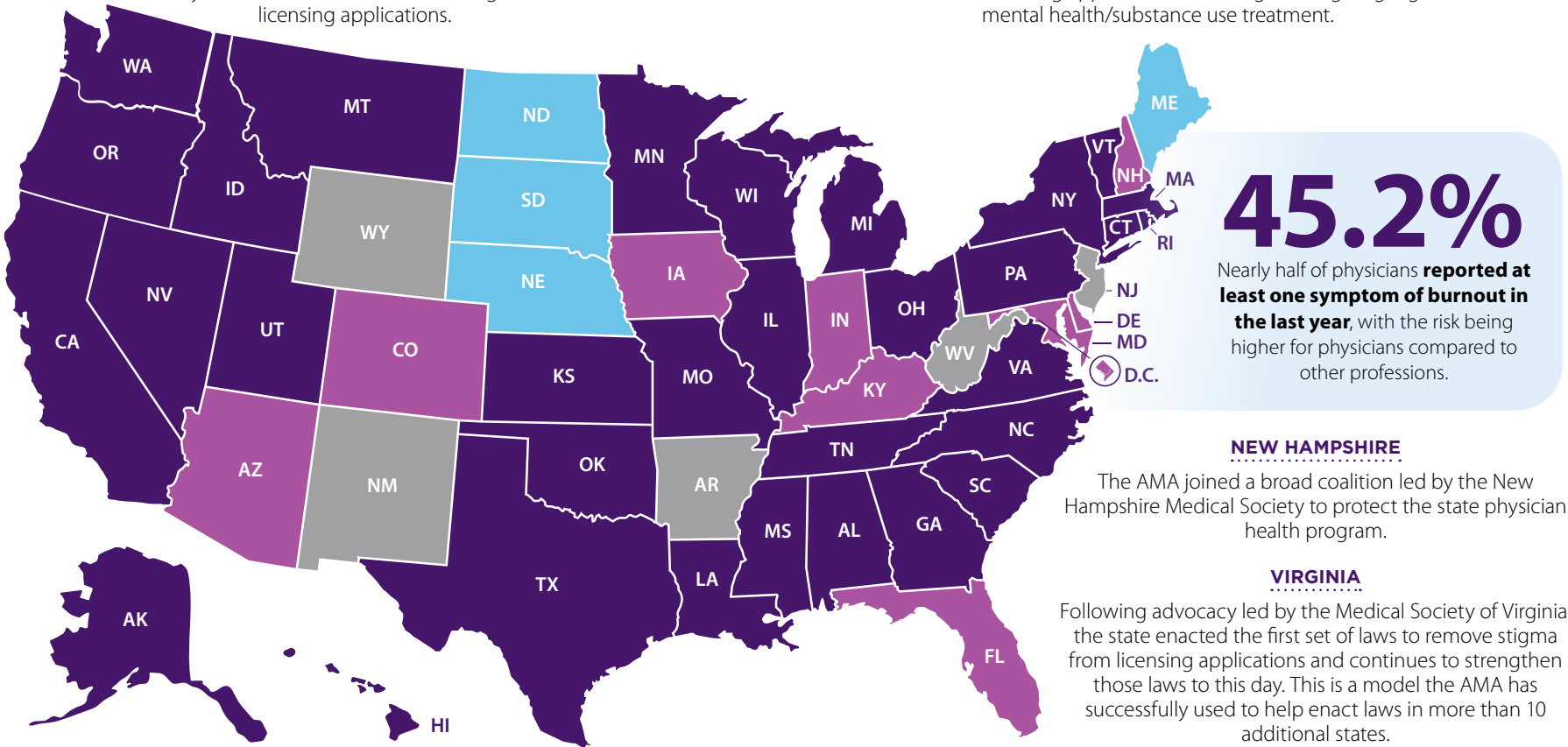
A third-year medical student successfully advocated for legislation—championed by the Colorado Academy of Family Physicians, the Colorado Medical Society and the AMA—that removes stigma from licensing applications.

IDAHO, MICHIGAN AND PENNSYLVANIA

With support from the AMA, the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation and the state medical societies, these became the first three states in which all licensure boards (medical, dental, nursing and pharmacy) have questions consistent with AMA recommendations.

MASSACHUSETTS

Collaboration between the AMA, the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation, the Massachusetts Medical Society, the state hospital association and major health insurance companies led to the first statewide credentialing application free of stigmatizing language for mental health/substance use treatment.



Source: Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation. September 2025 <http://drfromabreen.org/removebarriers/>

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.



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.

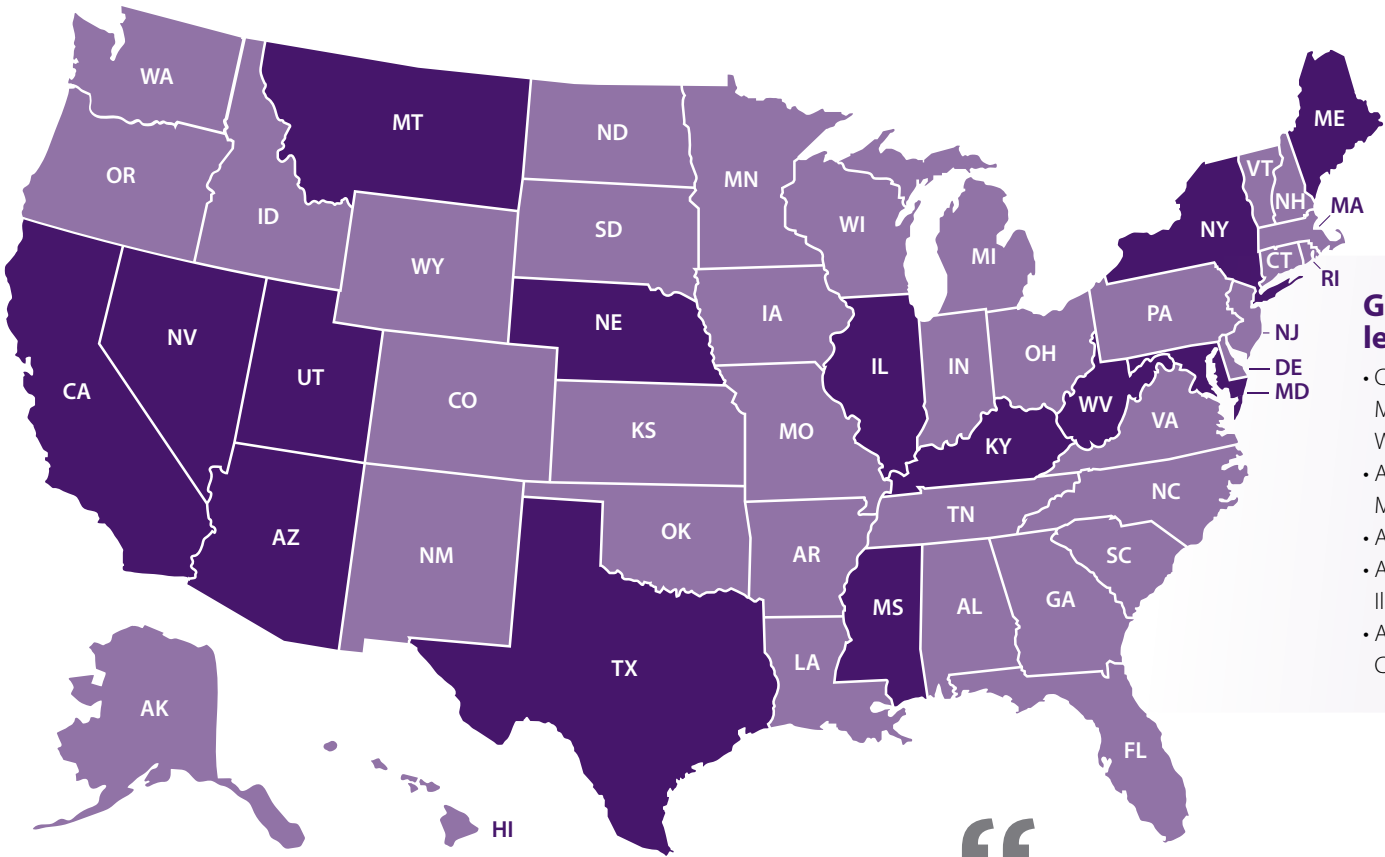
Empowering our partners

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.



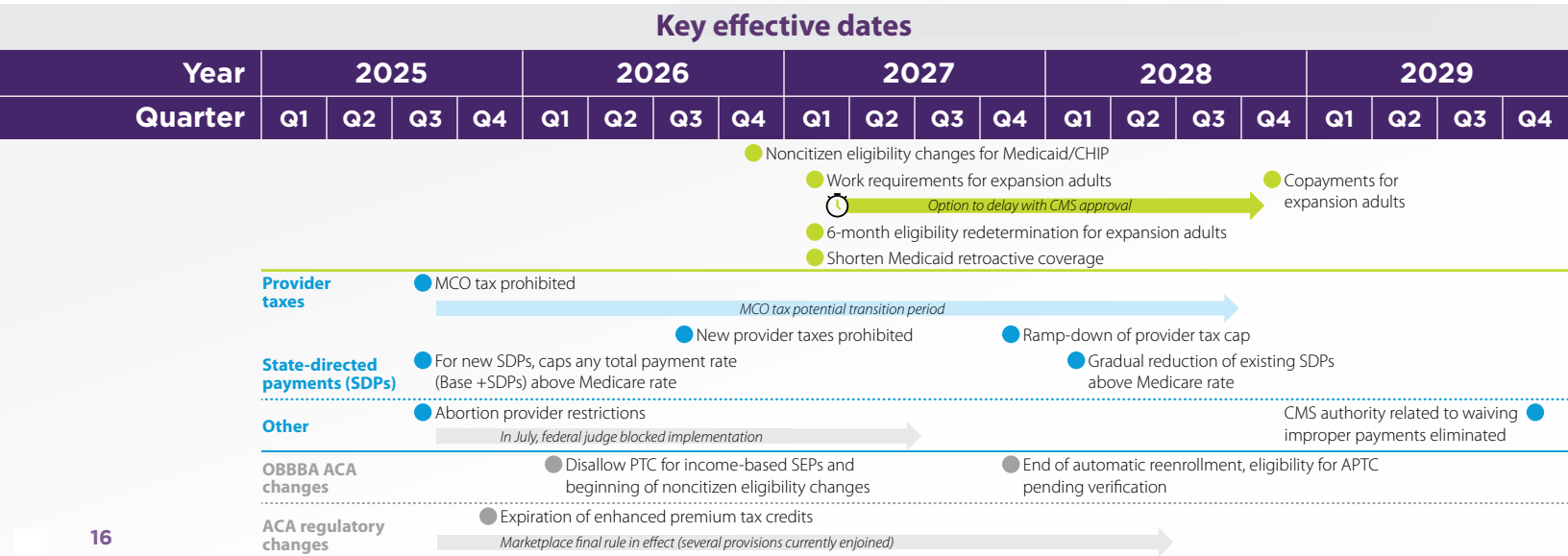
Learn more about the AMA Center for Digital Health and AI

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

See how your state can get involved at ama-assn.org/YCOC

YOUR CARE IS
AT OUR CORE
America's Physicians

“

As some people try to blur the lines between physicians and non-physician providers, this campaign highlights the calling our physicians feel to advocate for patients and work alongside them to achieve the best outcomes.”

ANNIE JUNG, MD
Executive Director
New Mexico Medical Society



MORE WAYS WE'RE MAKING AN IMPACT

This report is just a snapshot of the many ways the AMA Advocacy Resource Center is protecting physicians and patients and shaping the future of medicine. Check out the links below to learn even more about our work and access some of our most popular tools and resources.



End the Overdose Epidemic



Health Workforce Mapper



Managed Care Legal Database



Reproductive Health Resource Navigator

