



# 2026 State Legislative Preview Survey Results

AMA Advocacy Resource Center  
January 2026

The American Medical Association (AMA) Advocacy Resource Center conducts an annual state legislative and regulatory priorities survey among state and national medical specialty societies.

*Objectives:*

1. To identify trends for the upcoming 2026 state legislative sessions.
2. To get a clear picture of the top issues facing organized medicine at the state level.

## Overview of Study Design

### Methodology

An online survey was distributed to representatives of state and national medical specialty associations from October 7, 2025 - November 10, 2025, using the Qualtrics survey platform.

### Sample Size

The total of 64 respondents are broken out as follows:

- State Society/Association Respondents: 51
- Specialty Society/Association Respondents: 13

### Data Presentation

In nearly all cases, data is presented as counts due to small sample sizes. Issues with fewer than three responses are not reported.

# 2026 Top Legislative and Regulatory Priorities



The top legislative priorities in 2026 are expected to be **scope of practice, Medicaid, physician workforce, medical licensure issues** and **public health**. Four of the top five are the same priorities that were expected for 2025.

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Respondents from state associations expect to prioritize the same top 5 issues: **scope of practice, Medicaid, physician workforce, medical licensure issues** and **public health**.

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Priorities for 2026 are different for respondents from specialty societies: **scope of practice, medical licensure issues, augmented/artificial intelligence, private health insurance practices** and **truth in advertising**.

# 2026 Legislative and Regulatory Priorities as Percentage of Medical Association Respondent Type

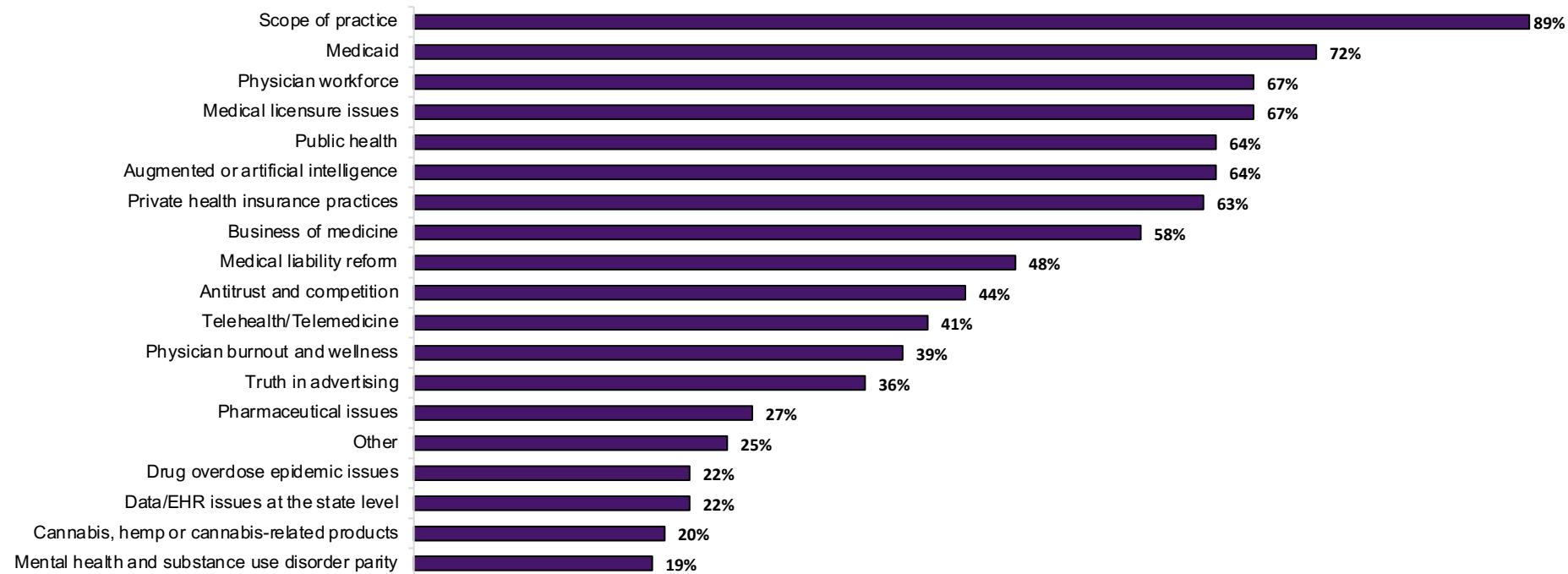
	Total (n=64)	State Medical Association (n=51)	National Medical Specialty Association (n=13)
Scope of practice	89%	88%	92%
Medicaid	72%	73%	69%
Physician workforce	67%	69%	62%
Medical licensure issues (including licensing pathways for internationally trained physicians)	67%	63%	85%
Public health (e.g., reproductive health, LGBTQ+ health, tobacco, vaccines, firearm violence, etc.)	64%	65%	62%
Augmented or artificial intelligence	64%	59%	85%
Private health insurance practices	63%	59%	77%
Business of medicine (e.g., private equity, corporate practice of medicine, physician unions)	58%	55%	69%
Medical liability reform	48%	49%	46%

	Total (n=64)	State Medical Association (n=51)	National Medical Specialty Association (n=13)
Antitrust and competition (e.g., health insurance, PBM, or hospital market consolidation; provider networks and managed care contracting, etc.)	44%	43%	46%
Telehealth/Telemedicine	41%	35%	62%
Physician burnout and wellness	39%	37%	46%
Truth in advertising	36%	25%	77%
Pharmaceutical issues	27%	24%	38%
Other	25%	24%	23%
Drug overdose epidemic issues (e.g., Rx opioids, pain, substance use disorders, overdose prevention, syringe services)	22%	22%	23%
Data/EHR issues at the state level	22%	24%	15%
Cannabis, hemp or cannabis-related products (e.g., Delta-8, Delta-10, etc.)	20%	24%	8%
Mental health and substance use disorder parity	19%	18%	23%

Which of the following legislative or regulatory issues does your association expect to work on in 2026? Select all that apply. (total n=63; state societies n=50; specialty societies n=13)

# The top five legislative priorities for 2026 are scope of practice, Medicaid, physician workforce, medical licensure issues and public health.

## Legislative Issues Among All Respondents



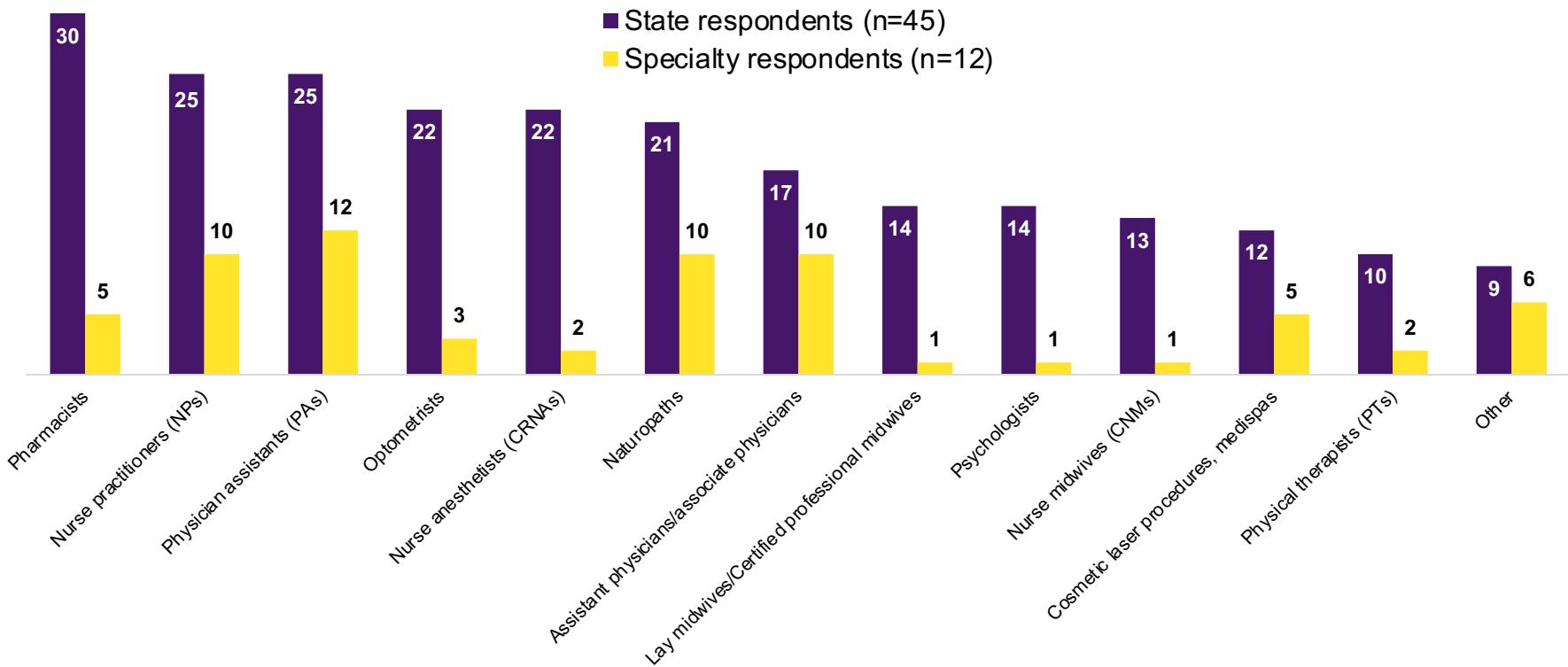
Which of the following legislative or regulatory issues does your association expect to work on in 2026? Select all that apply. (total n=64; state societies n=51; specialty societies n=13)

# 2026 Legislative Priorities by Issue

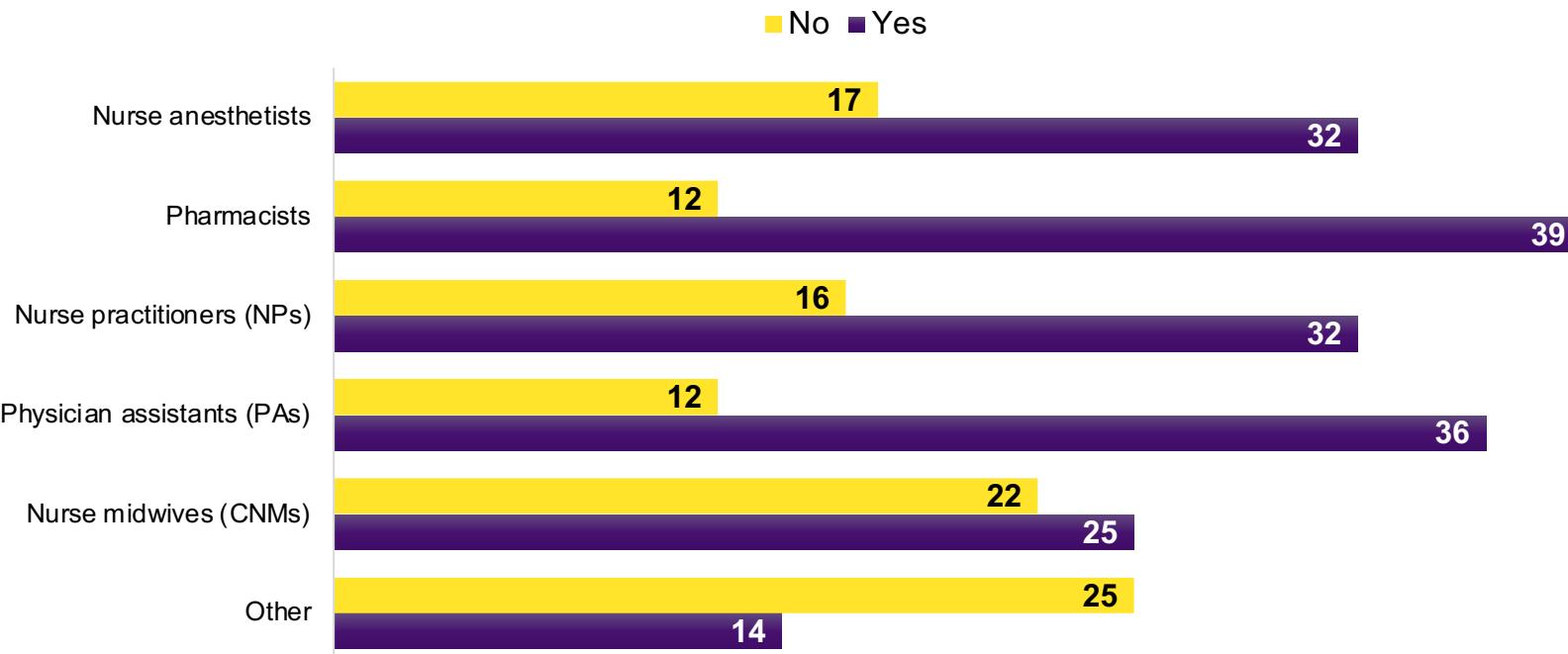
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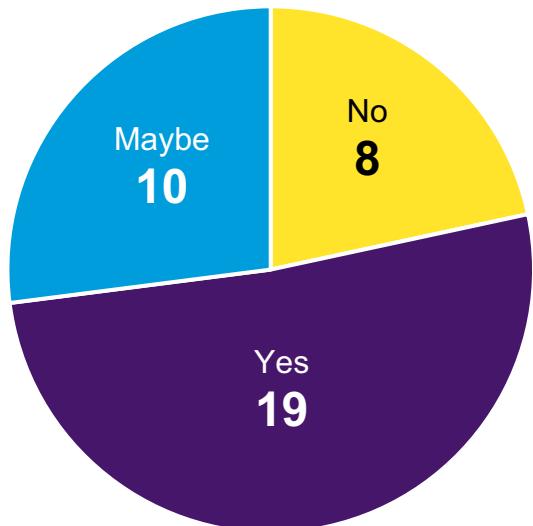
## Which of the following scope of practice issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



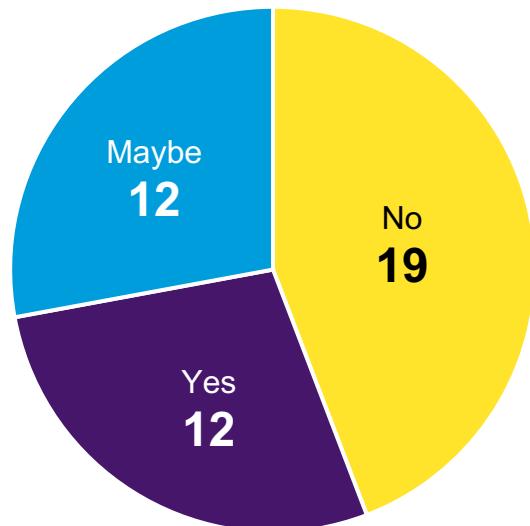
## Do you anticipate legislation to remove or weaken physician supervision/collaboration? (n=51)



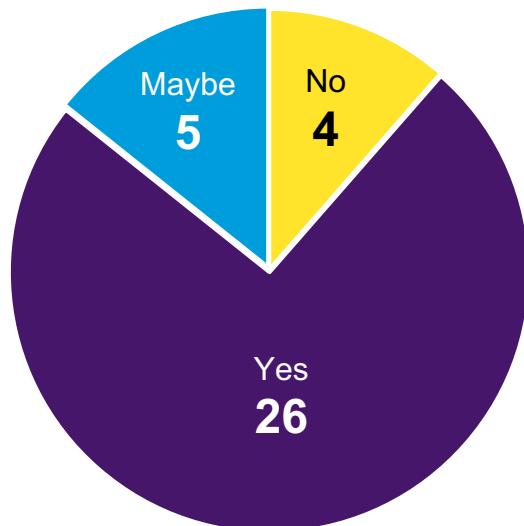
**Do You anticipate legislation to change the title of physician assistant to physician associate? (n=37)**



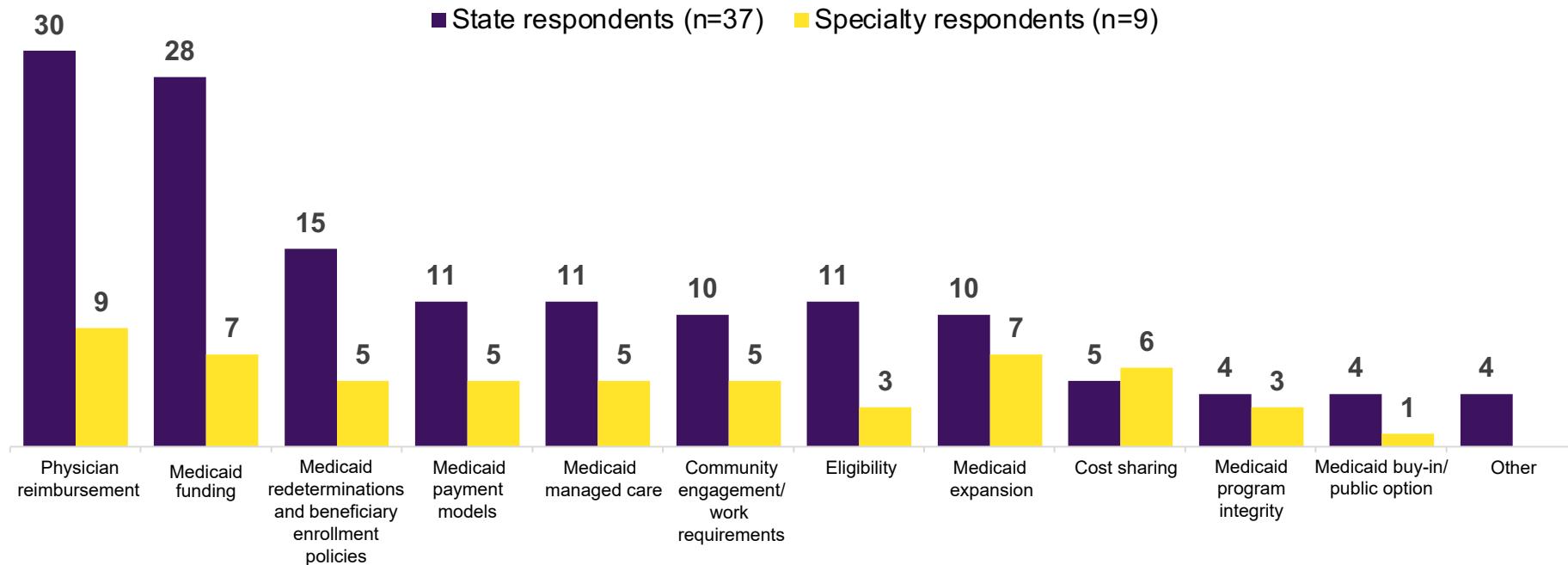
**Do you anticipate legislation to adopt the APRN Compact? (n=43)**



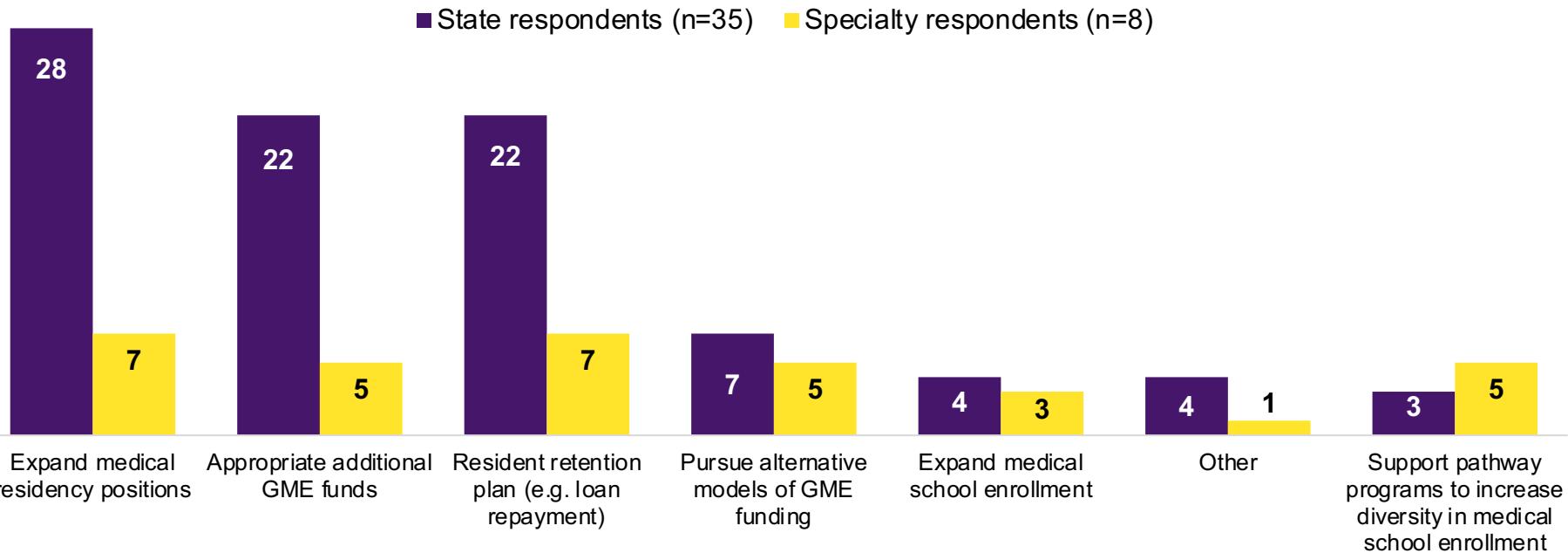
**Do you anticipate legislation allowing pharmacists to “test and treat” (i.e., prescribe for minor conditions such as strep throat)? (n=35)**



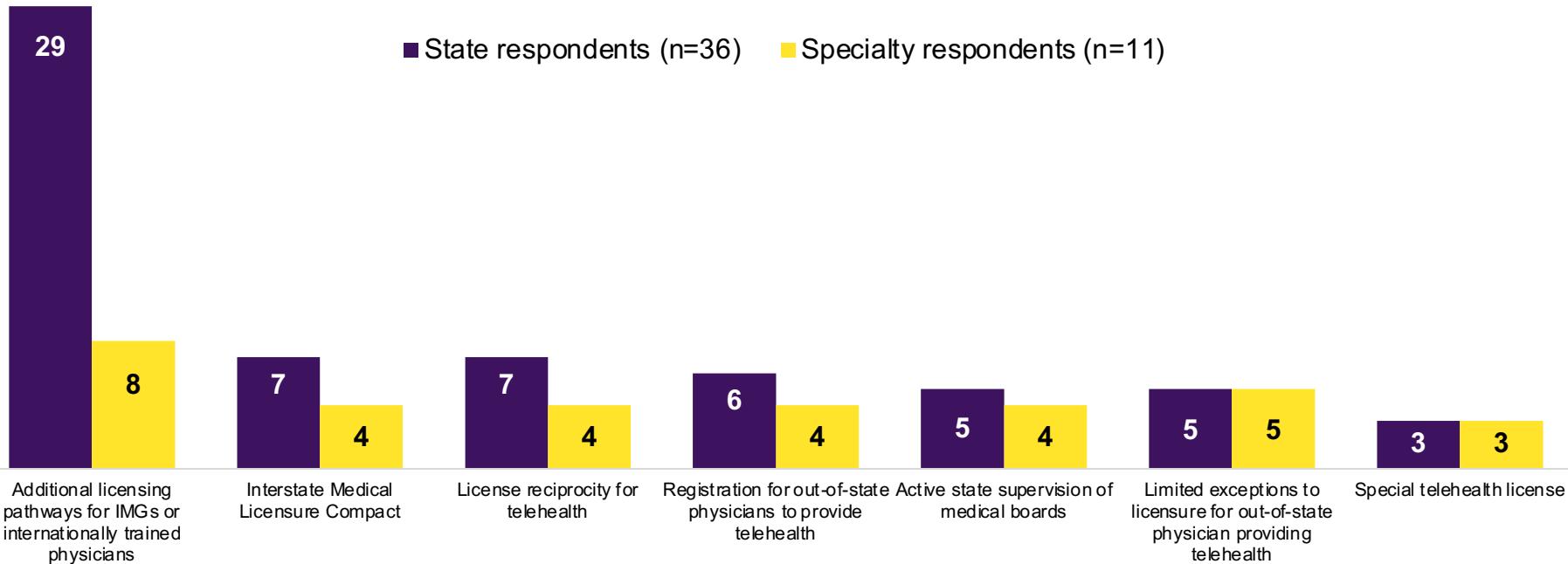
## Which of the following Medicaid issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



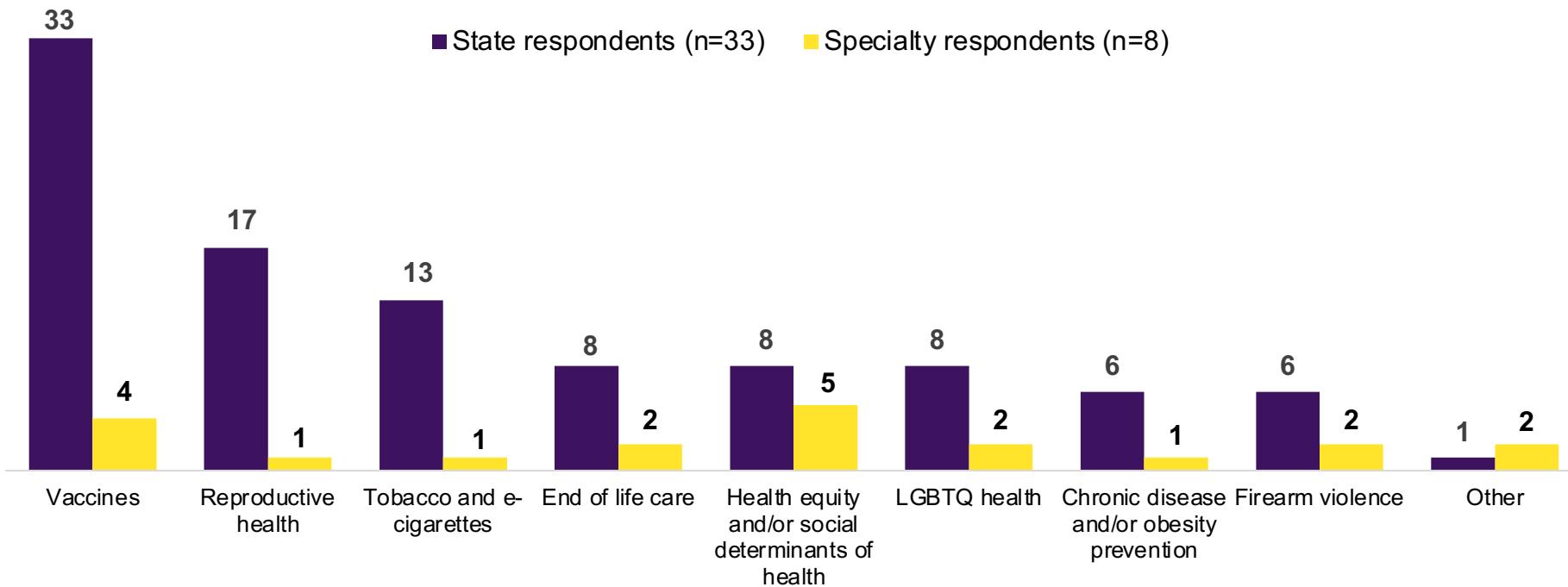
## Which of the following physician workforce issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



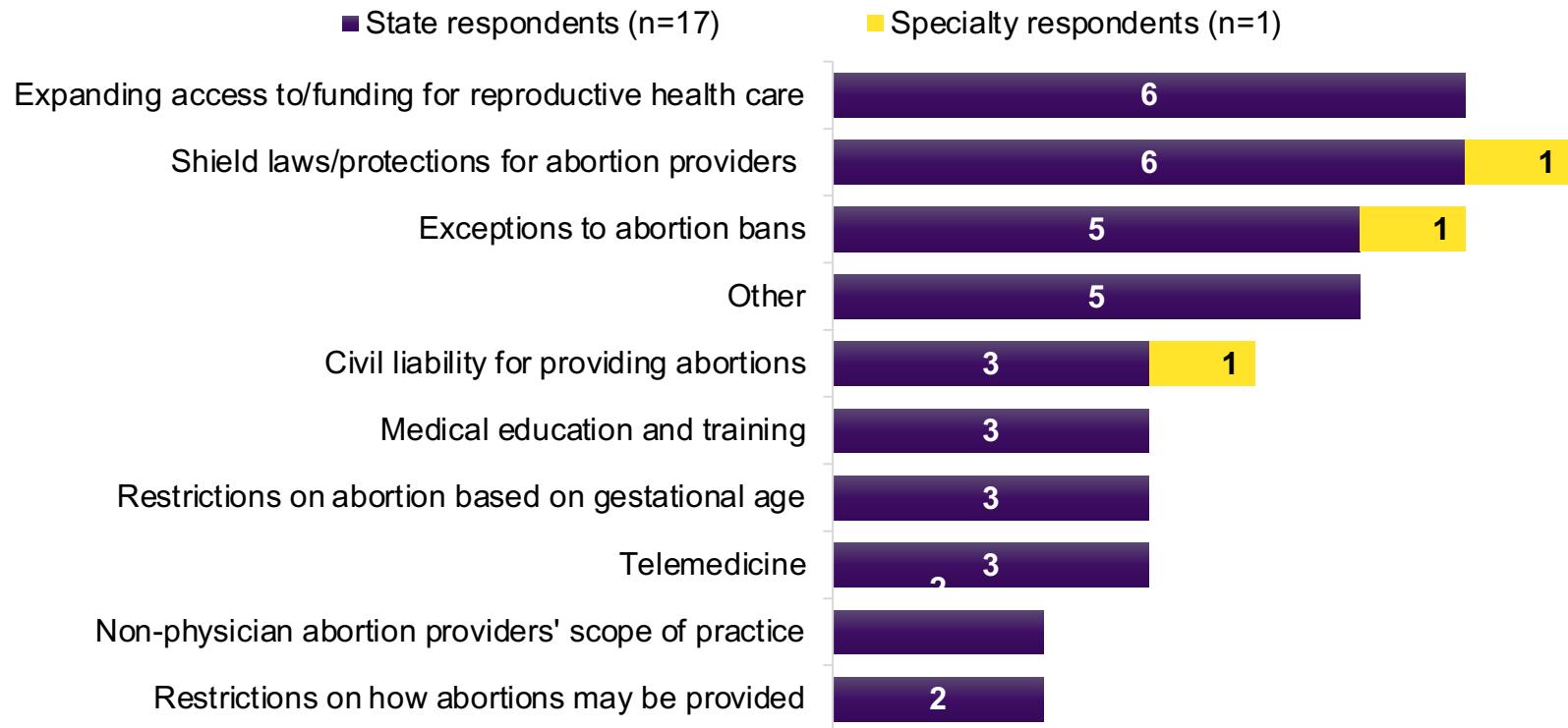
# Which of the following medical licensure issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



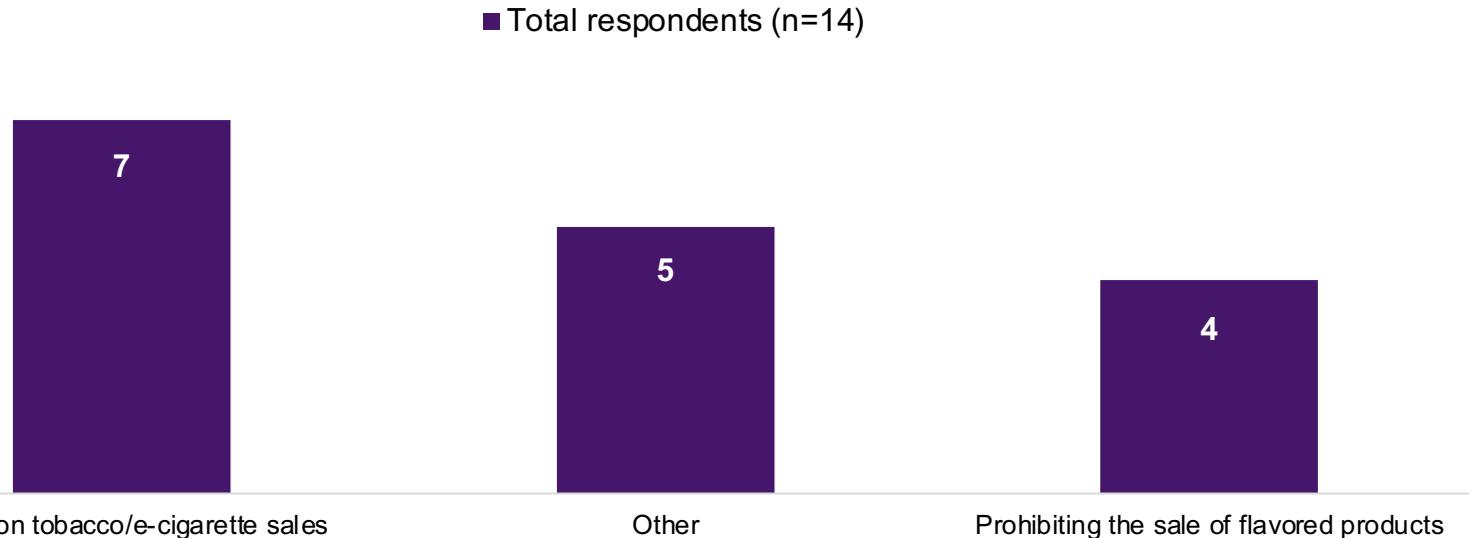
## Which of the following public health issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



## Which of the following reproductive health issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?

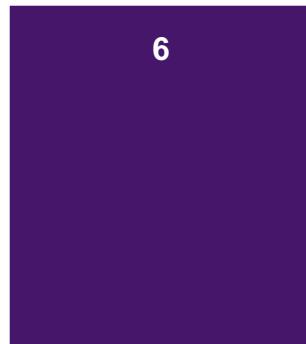


## Which of the following tobacco and e-cigarette issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



## Which of the following LGBTQ health issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?

■ Total respondents (n=10)



Bans on gender-affirming care

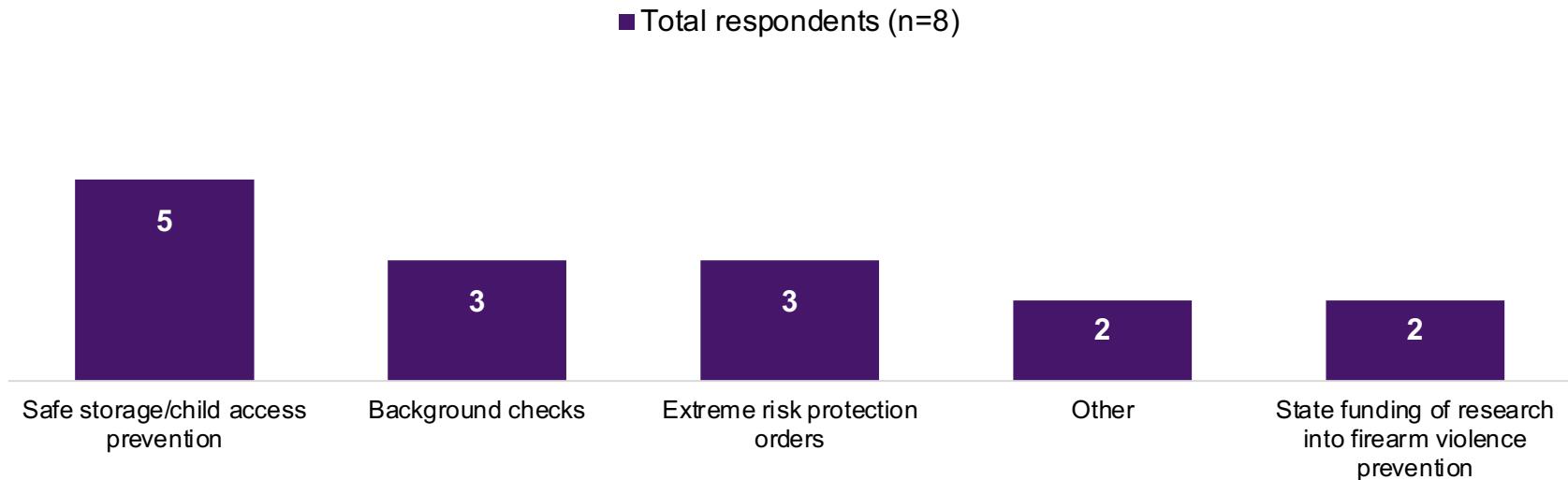


Private insurance and/or Medicaid coverage of  
gender-affirming care

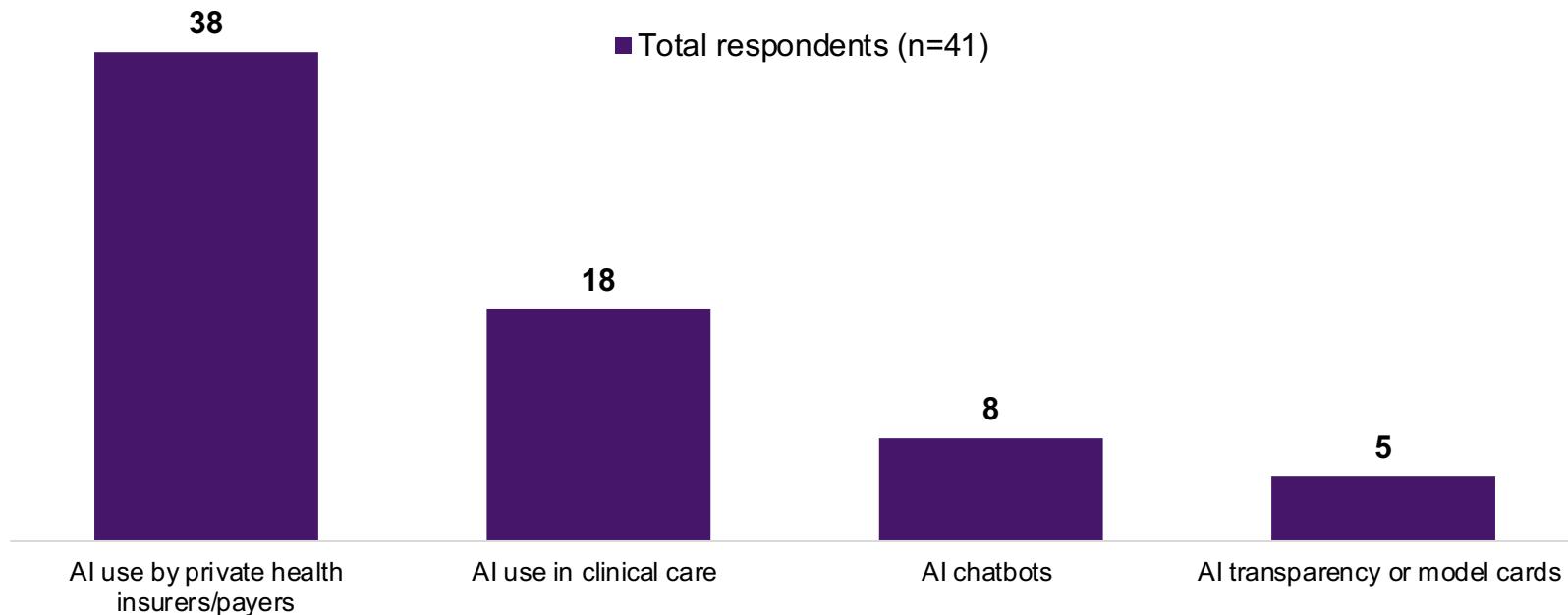


Religious or conscientious exemptions

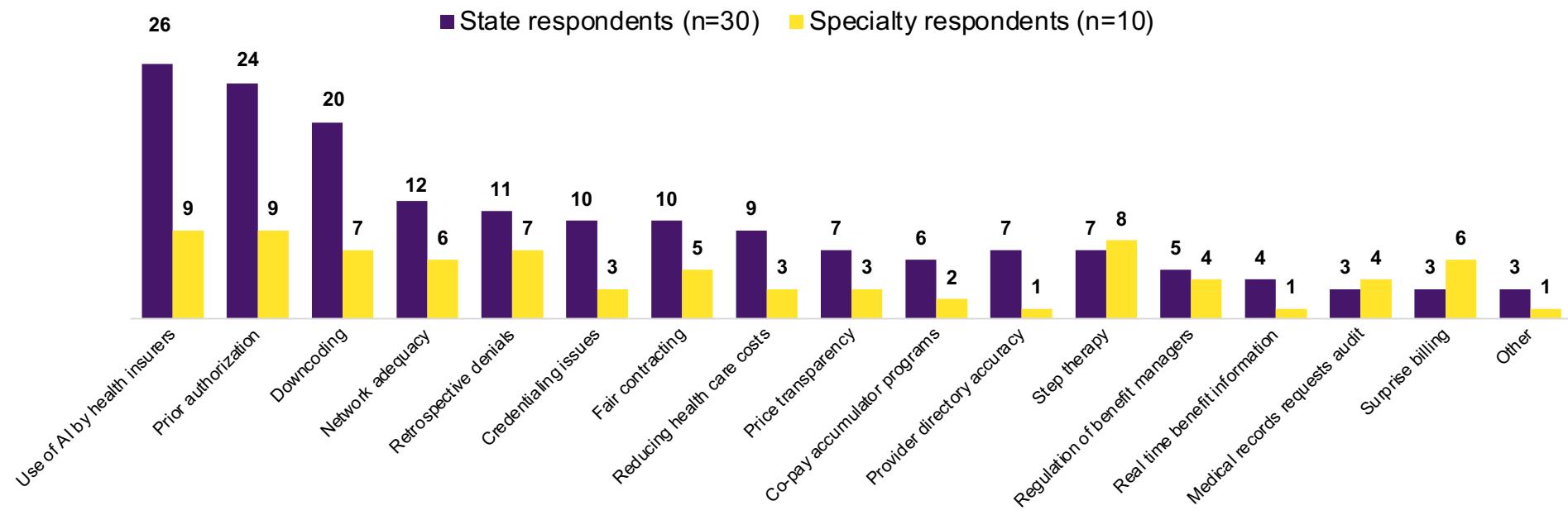
## Which of the following firearm issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



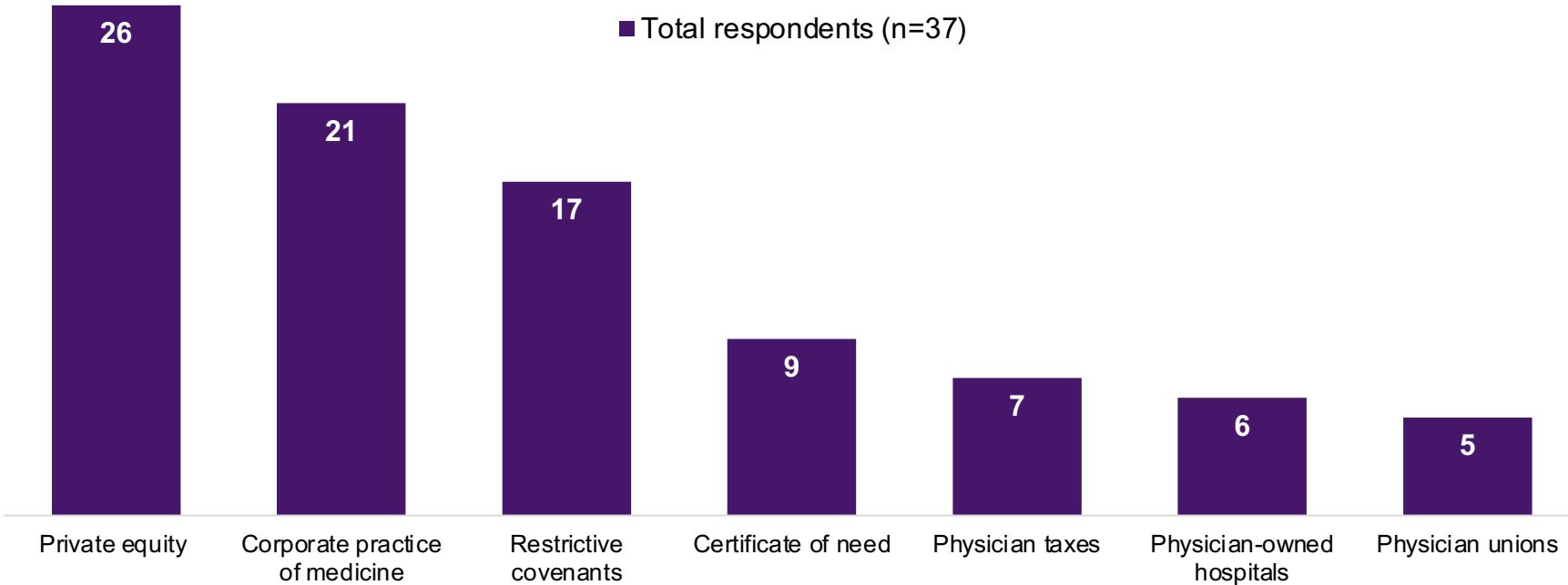
## Which of the following augmented/artificial intelligence issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



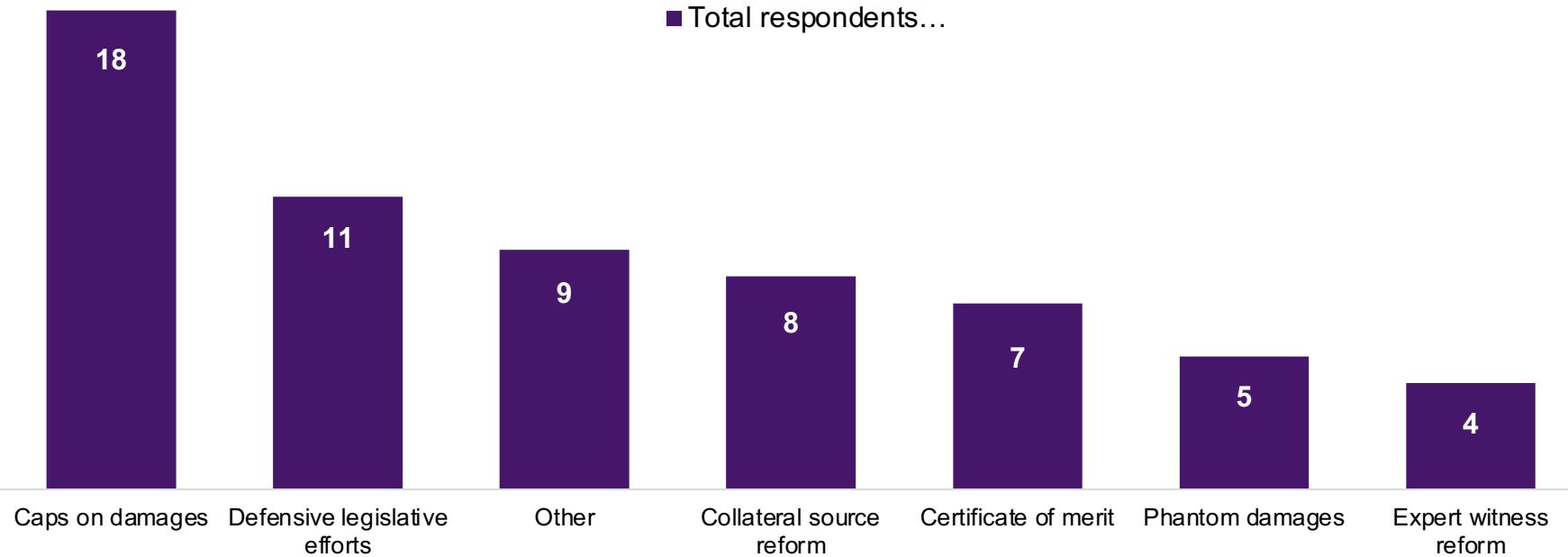
## Which of the following private health insurance issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



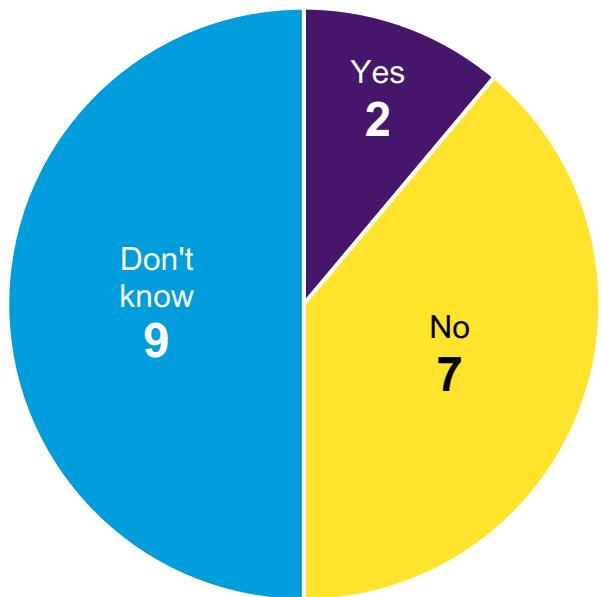
## Which of the following business of medicine issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



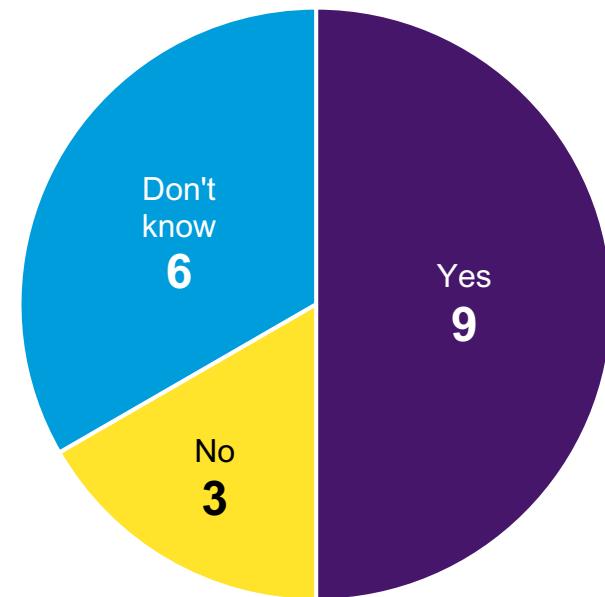
## Which of the following medical liability reform issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



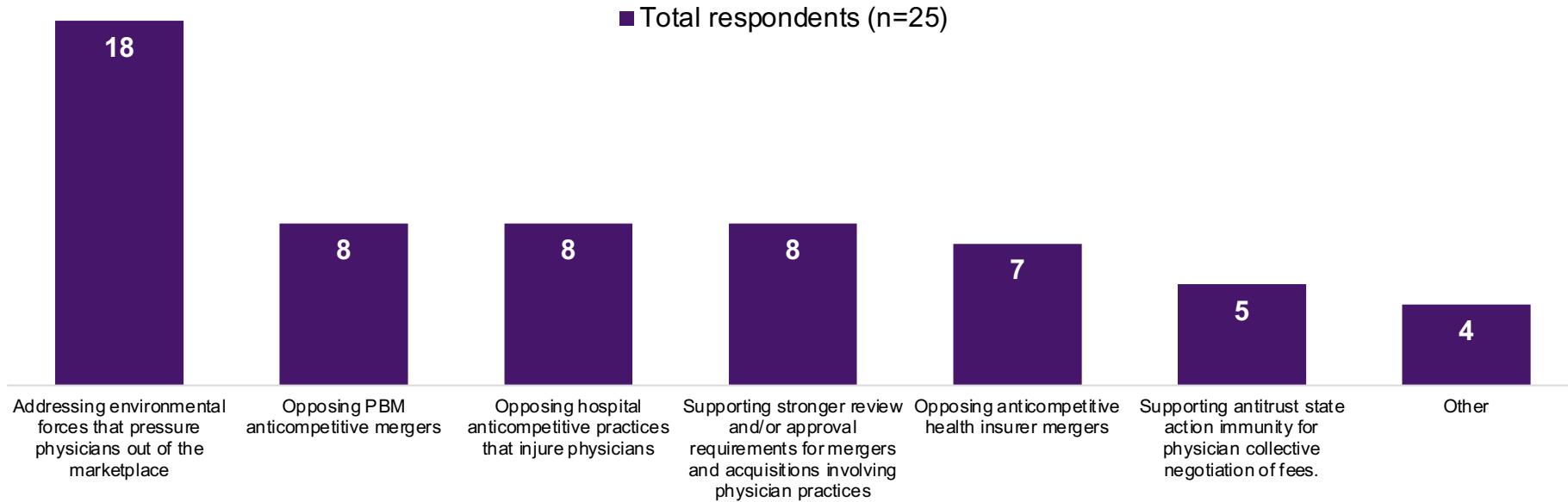
**Do you anticipate a judicial challenge to your cap on damages?  
(n=18)**



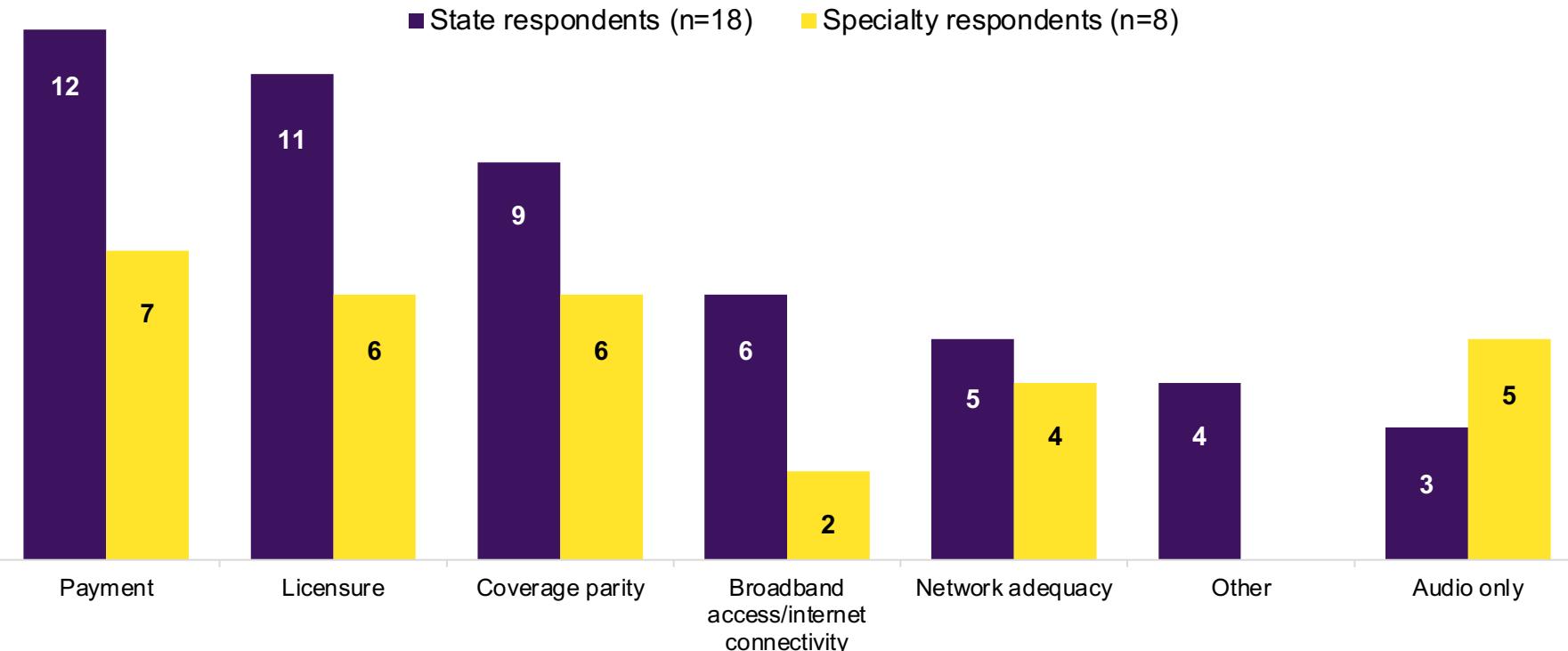
**Do you anticipate a legislative challenge to your cap on damages?  
(n=18)**



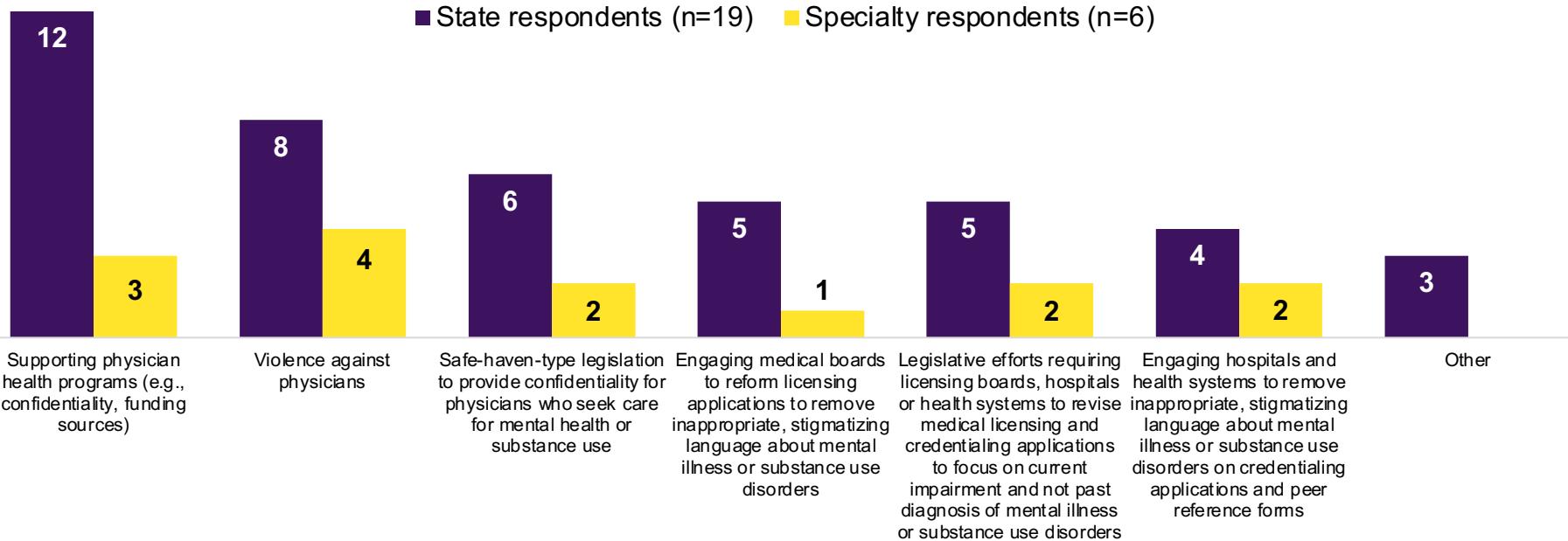
## Which of the following antitrust issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



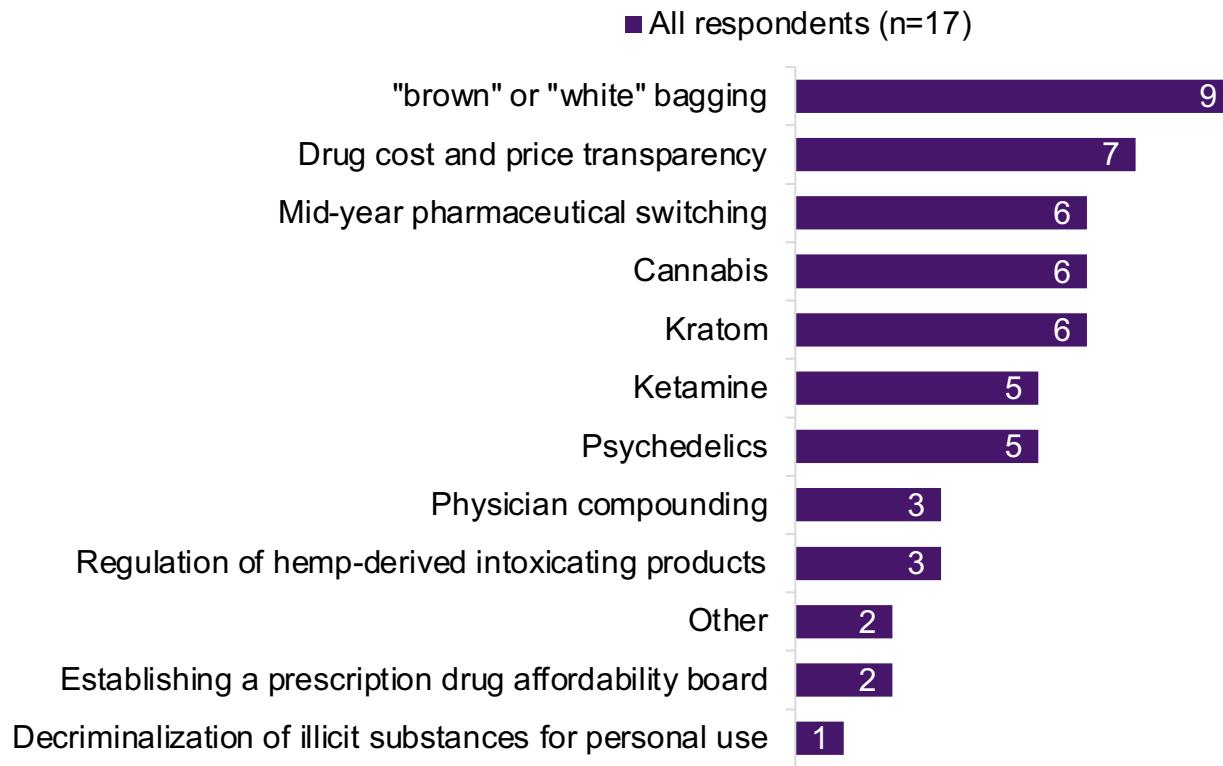
## Which of the following telehealth/telemedicine issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



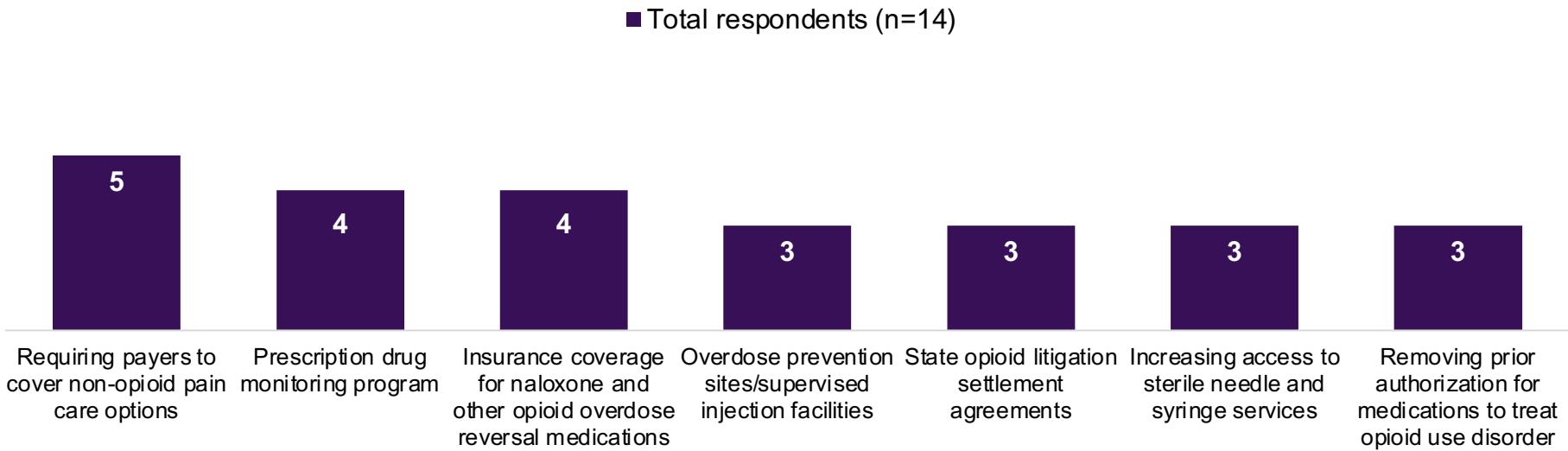
# Which of the following physician wellness issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



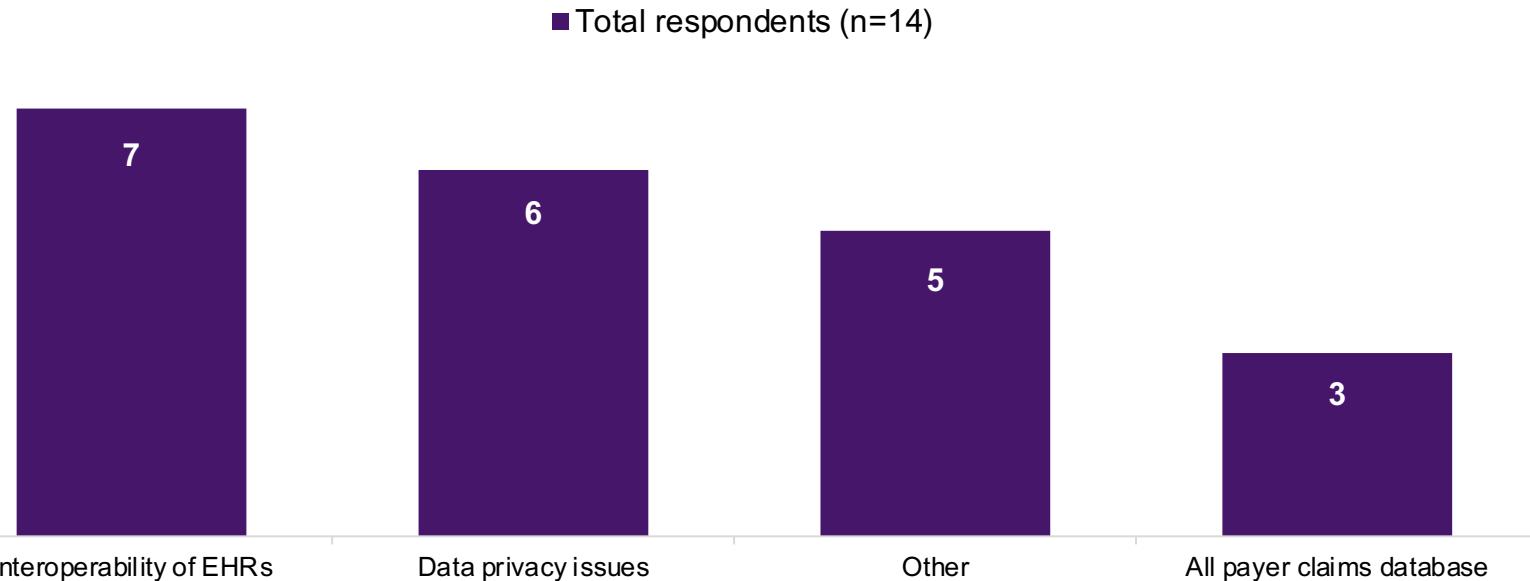
## Which of the following pharmaceutical issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



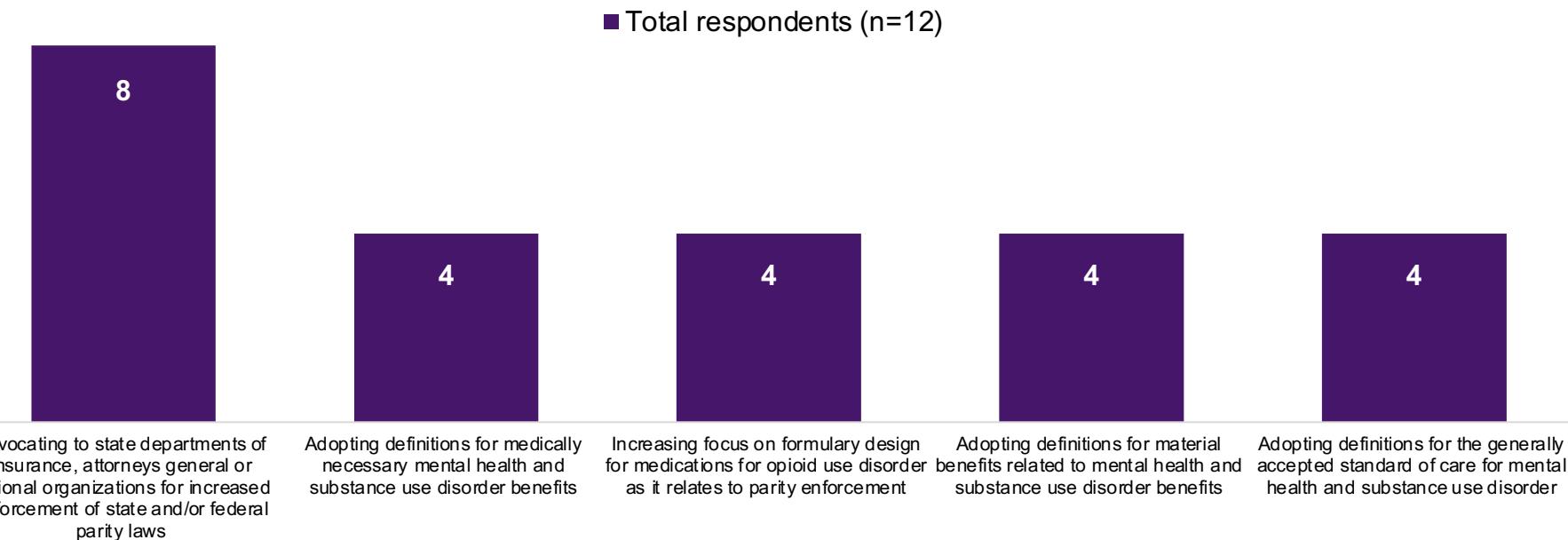
## Which of the following drug overdose epidemic issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



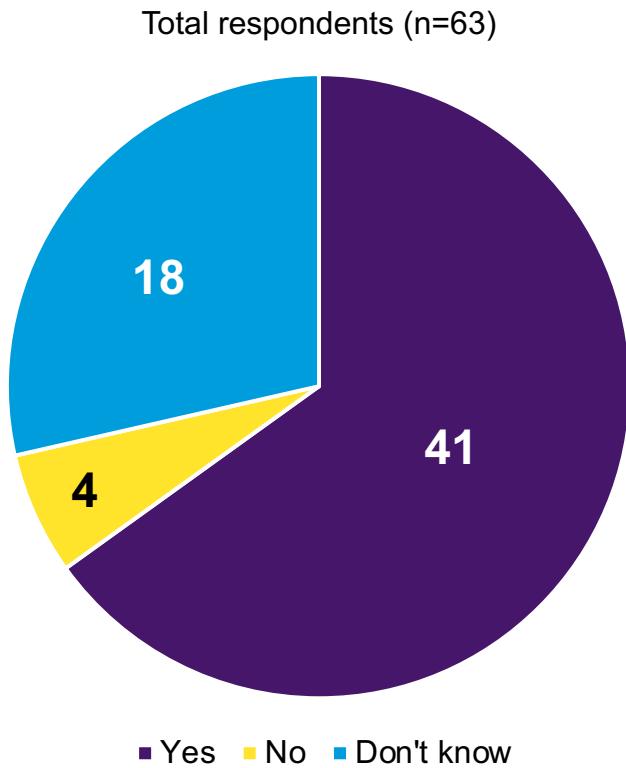
## Which of the following data/EHR Issues at the state level does your association expect to work on in 2026?



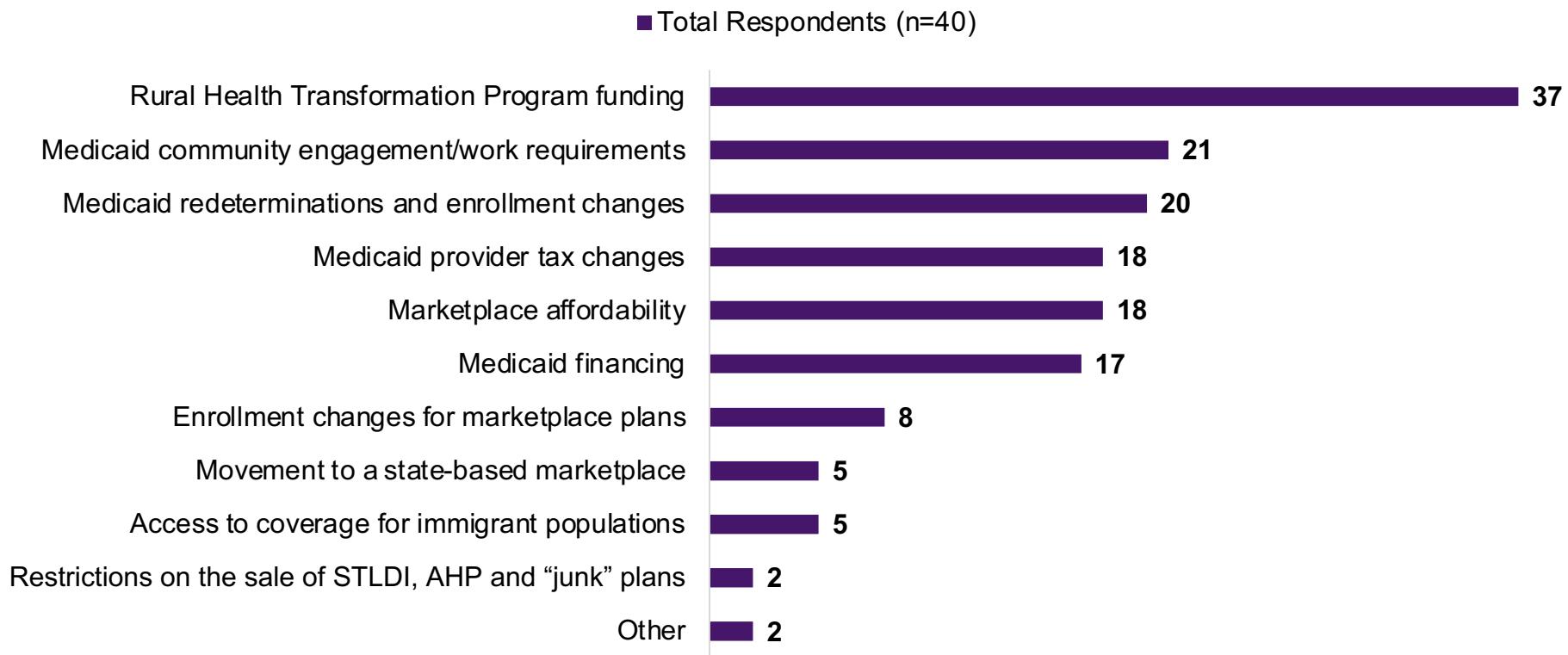
## Which of the following mental health and substance use disorder parity issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



## Do you anticipate working on implementation of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) in 2026?



## What OBBBA issues will you prioritize?





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