




# 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

<b>Methodology</b>	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.
<b>Sample Size</b>	<p>The total of 64 respondents are broken out as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State Society/Association Respondents: 51</li><li>• Specialty Society/Association Respondents: 13</li></ul>
<b>Data Presentation</b>	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%

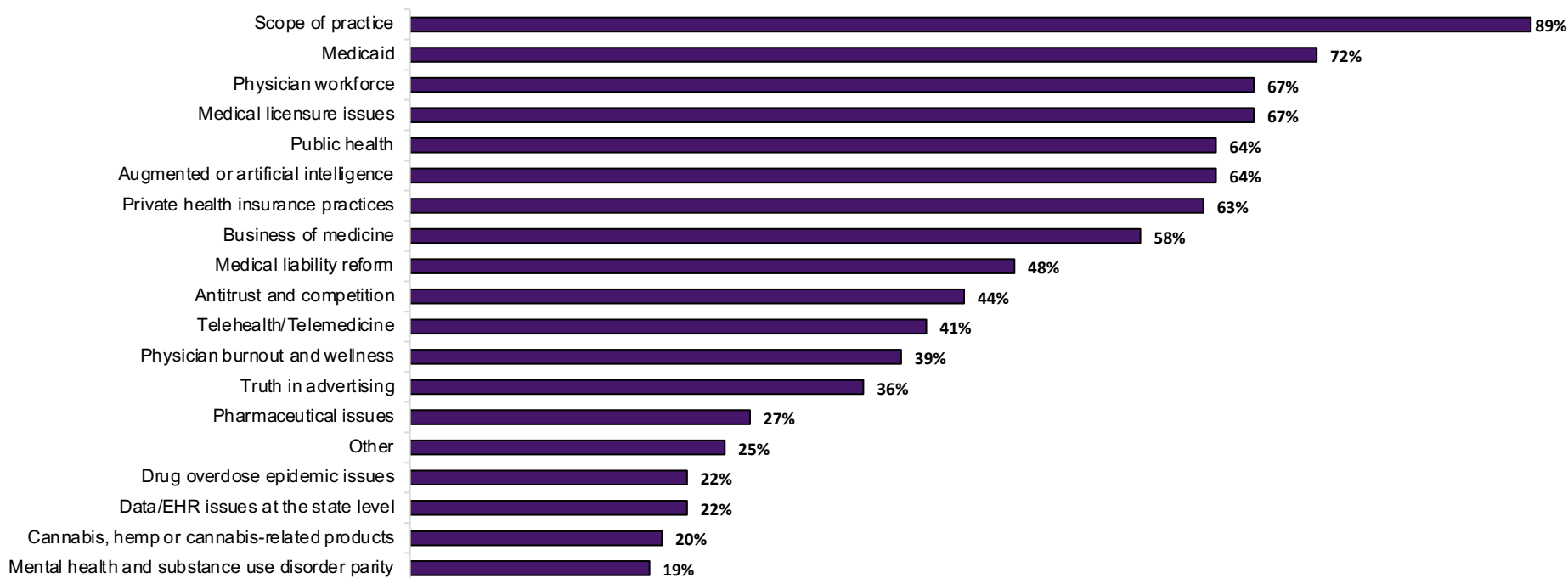
	Total (n=64)	State Medical Association (n=51)	National Medical Specialty Association (n=13)
Antitrust and competition (e.g., health insurance, PBM, or hospital market consolidation; provider networks and managed care contracting, etc.)	44%	43%	46%
Telehealth/Telemedicine	41%	35%	62%
Physician burnout 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)

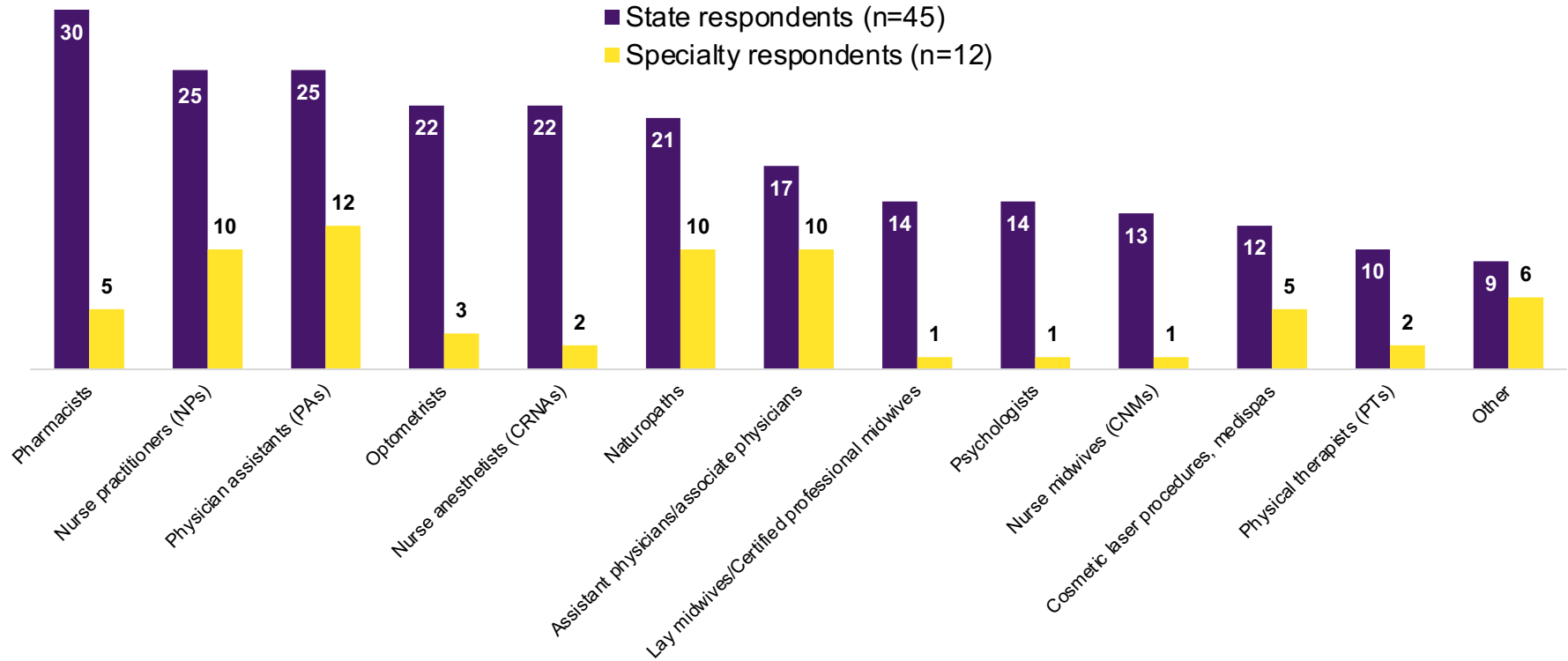
# 2026 Legislative Priorities by Issue

## Table of Contents

	Page #
Scope of practice	<b>7</b>
Medicaid	<b>11</b>
Physician workforce	<b>12</b>
Medical licensure	<b>13</b>
Public health	
• Reproductive health issues	
• Tobacco and e-cigarette issues	
• LGBTQ health issues	
• Firearm issues	<b>14</b>
Augmented/Artificial Intelligence	<b>19</b>
Private health insurance practices	<b>20</b>

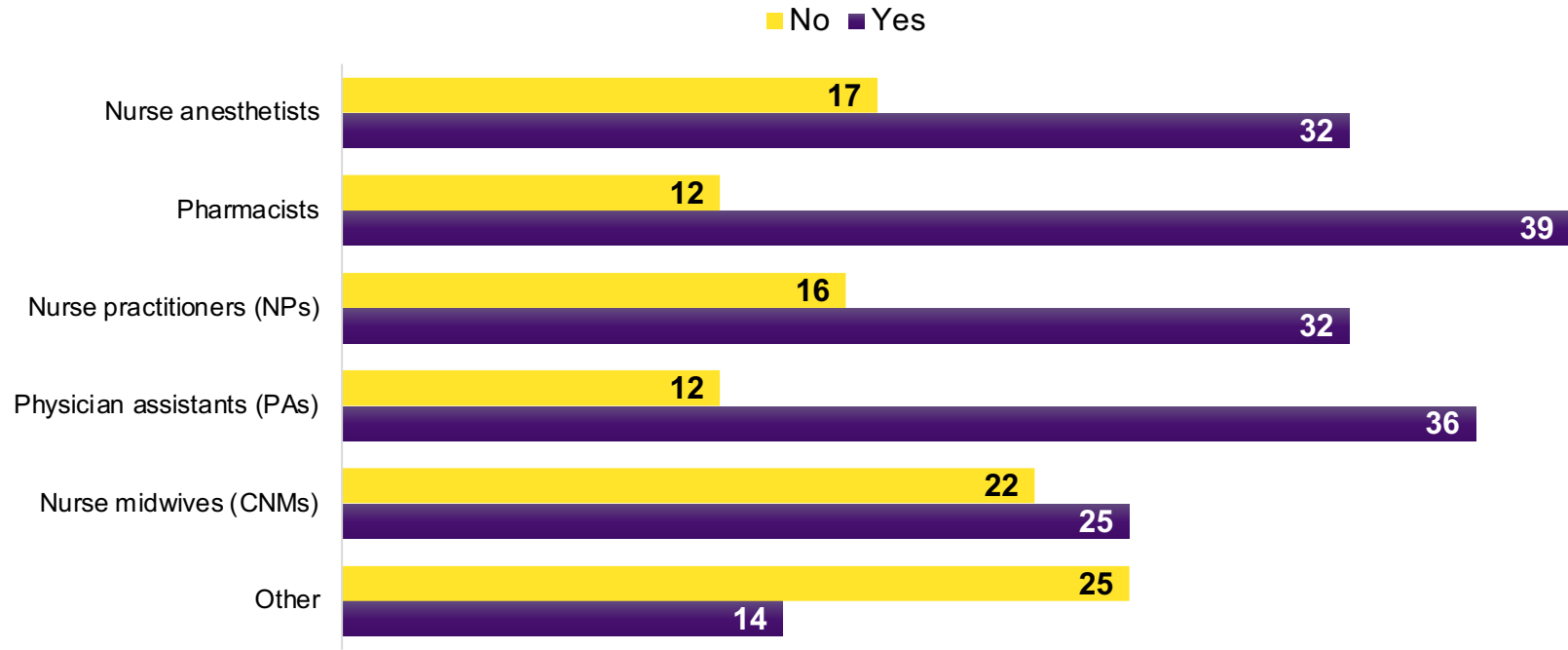
	Page #
Business of medicine	<b>21</b>
Medical liability reform	<b>22</b>
Antitrust and competition	<b>24</b>
Telehealth/Telemedicine	<b>25</b>
Physician wellness	<b>26</b>
Pharmaceutical issues	<b>27</b>
Data/EHR issues at the state level	<b>30</b>
Drug overdose epidemic issues	
• MOUD issues	
• Mental health and substance use disorder	<b>30</b>
One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)	<b>31</b>

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

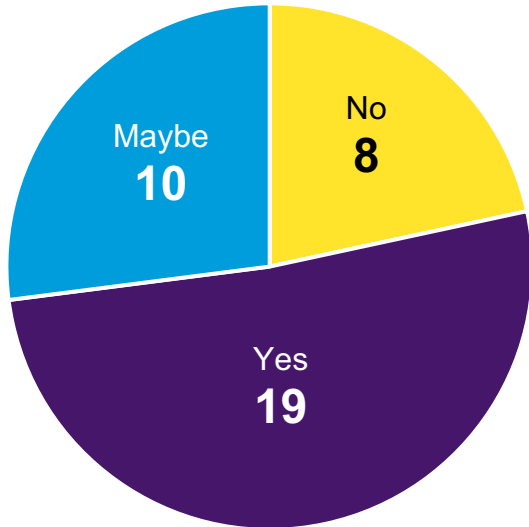




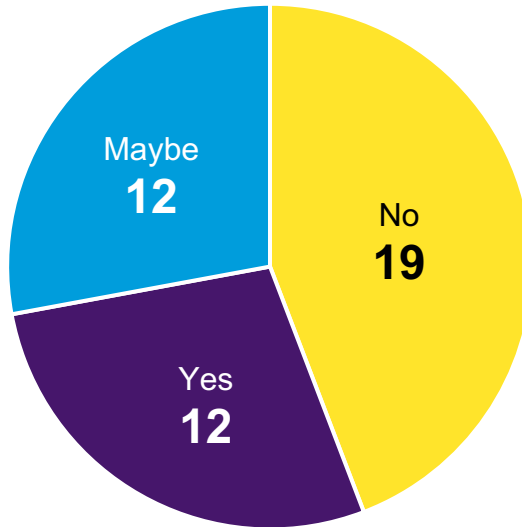
## Do you anticipate legislation to remove or weaken physician supervision/collaboration? (n=51)



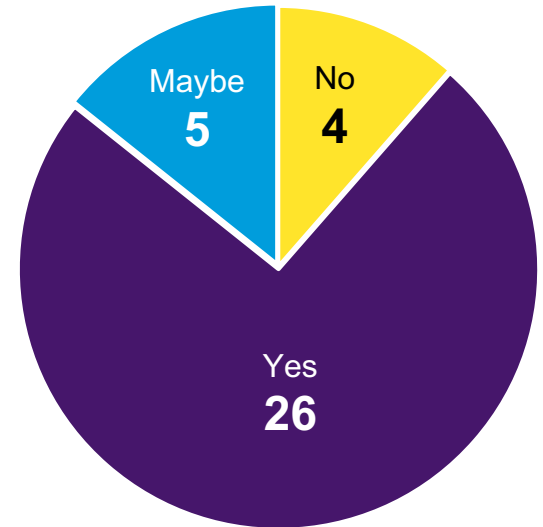
**Do You anticipate  
legislation to change  
the title of physician  
assistant to physician  
associate?  
(n=37)**



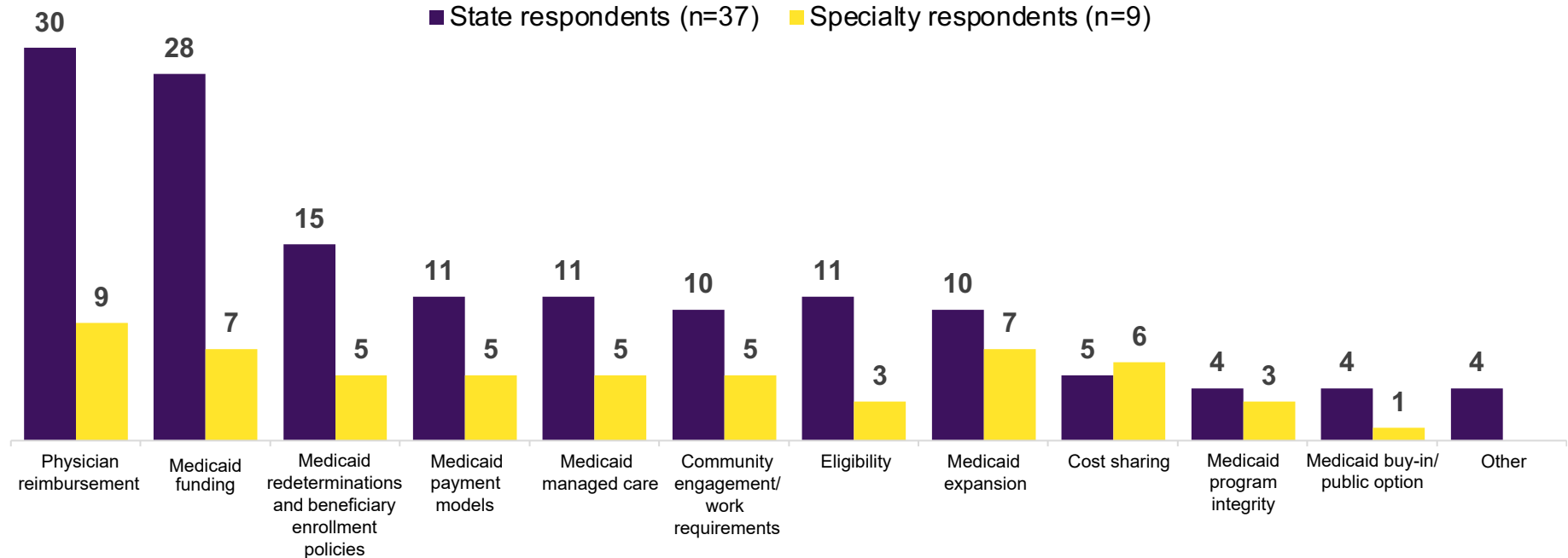
**Do you anticipate  
legislation to adopt  
the APRN Compact?  
(n=43)**



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

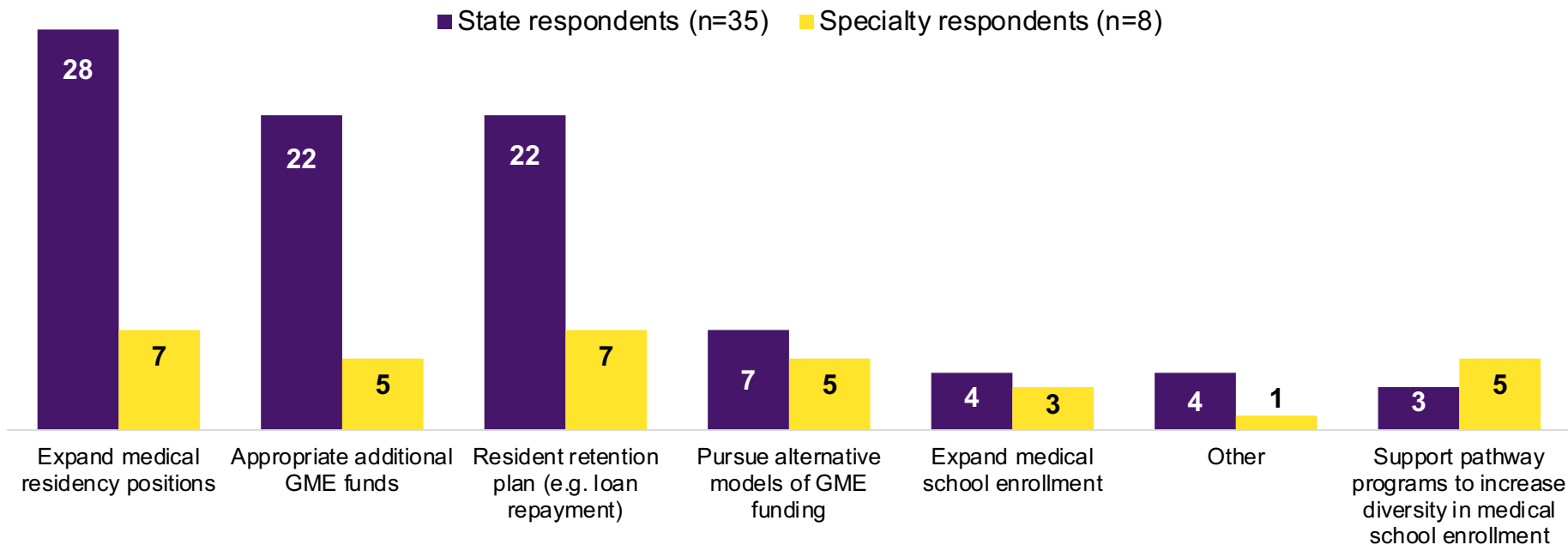


## Which of the following Medicaid issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?

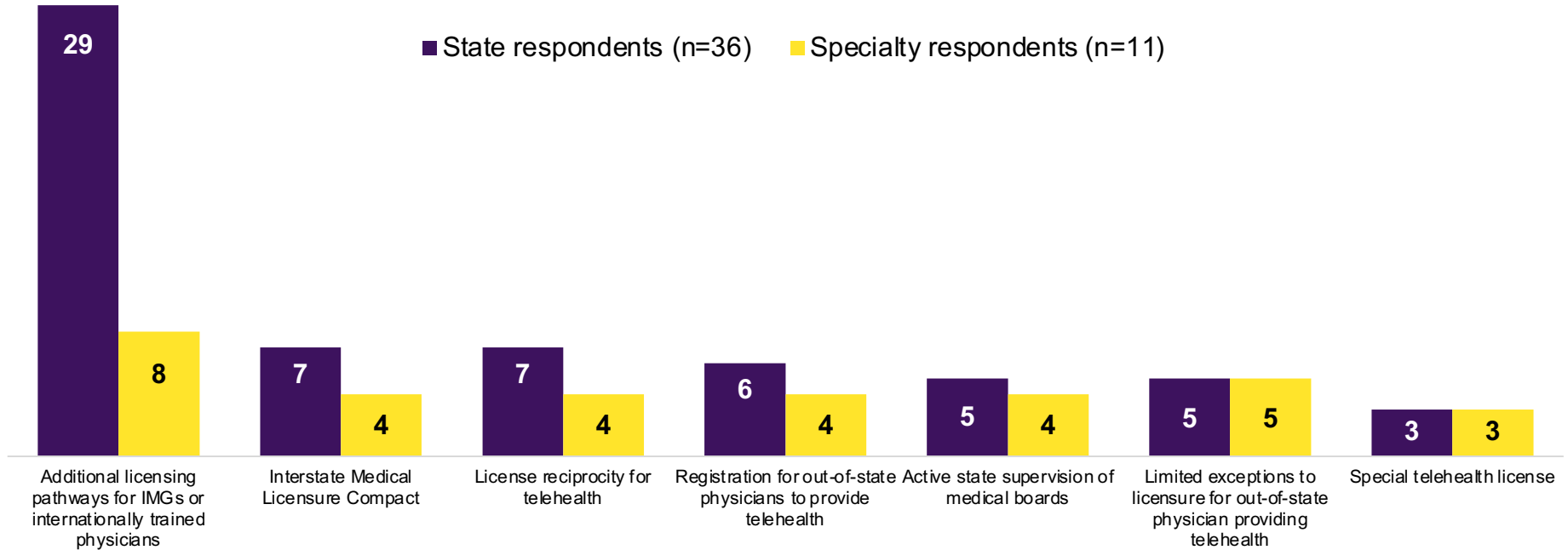




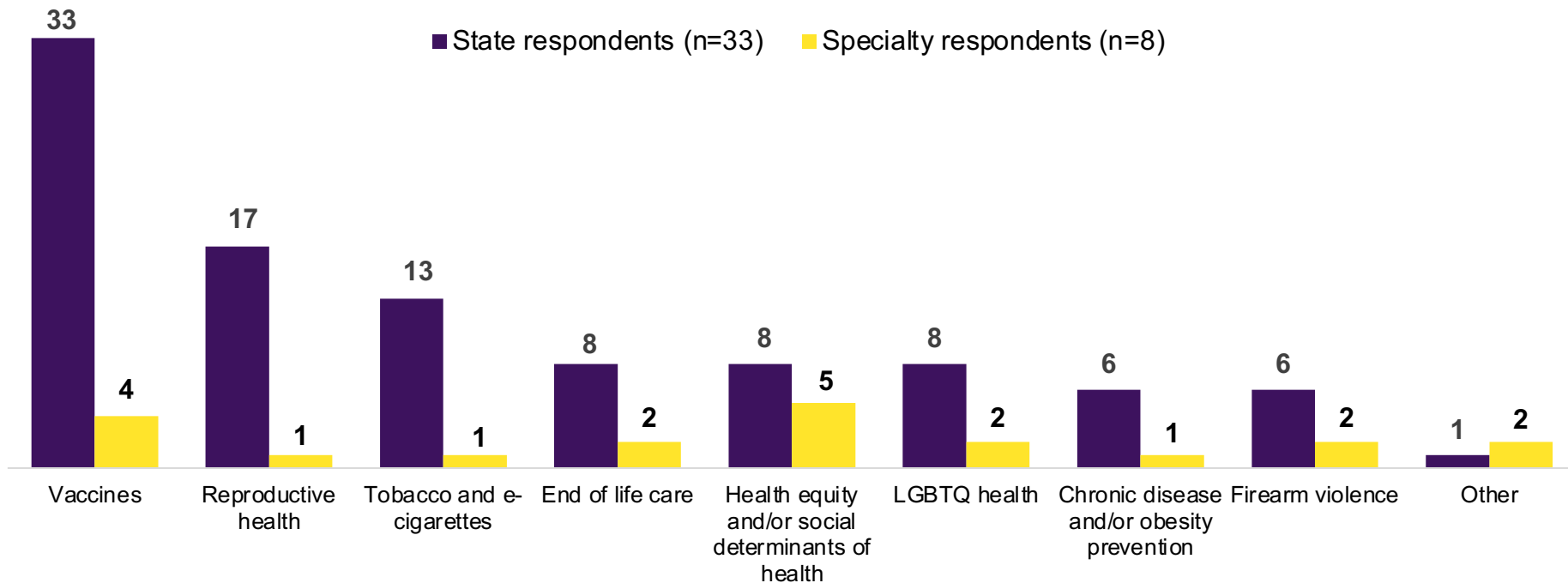
## Which of the following physician workforce issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



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

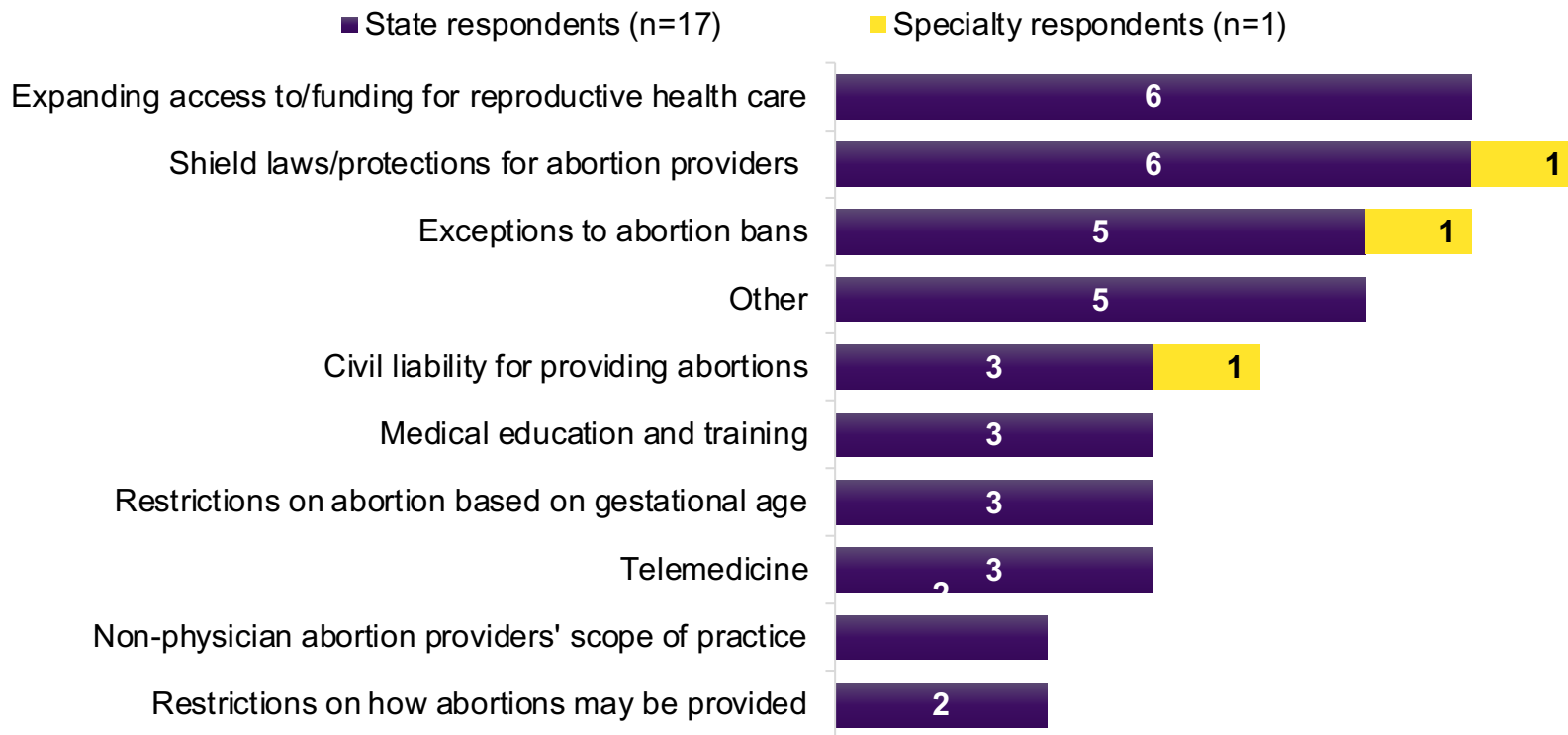


## Which of the following public health issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?

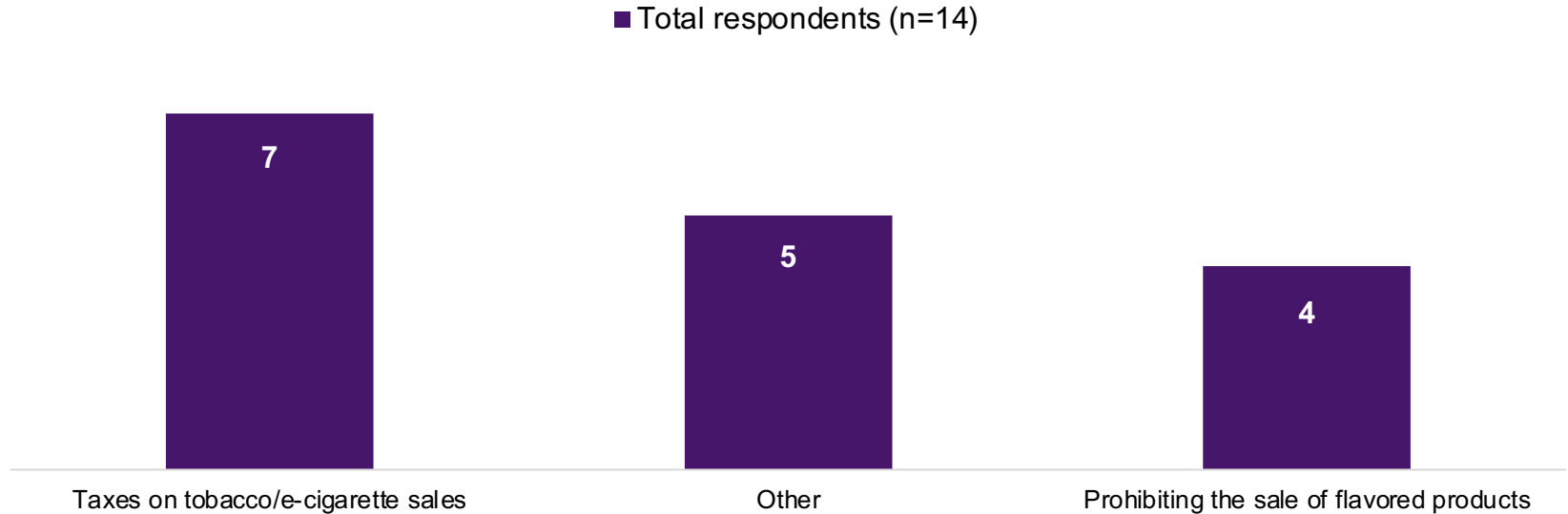




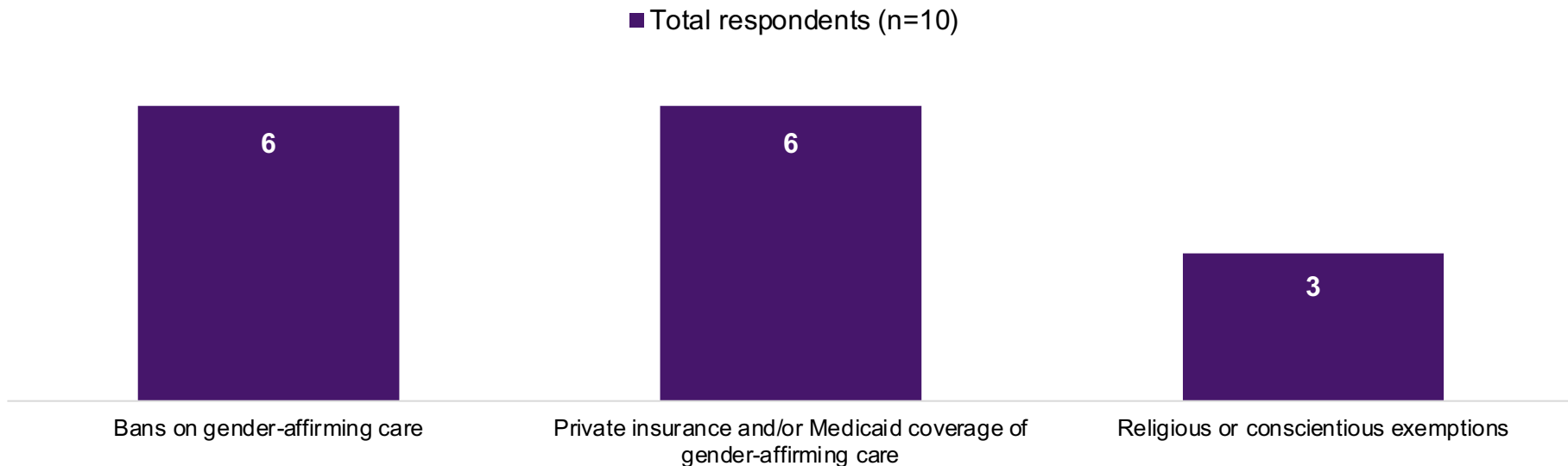
## Which of the following reproductive health issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



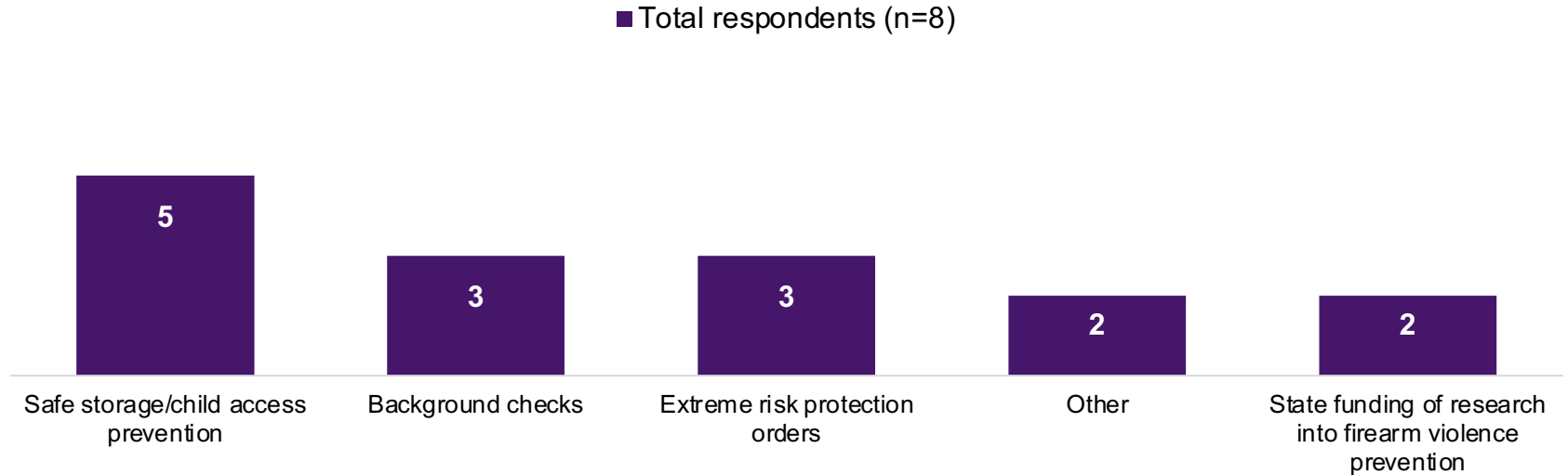
## Which of the following tobacco and e-cigarette issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



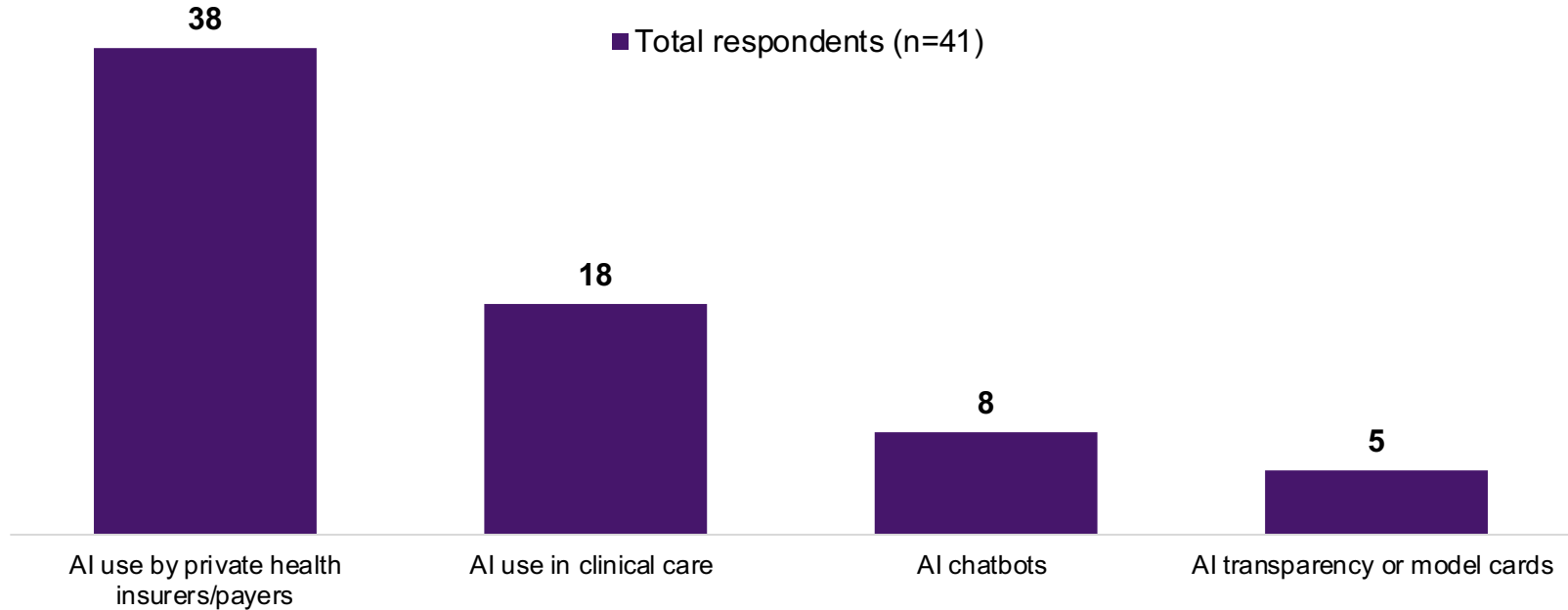
## Which of the following LGBTQ health issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



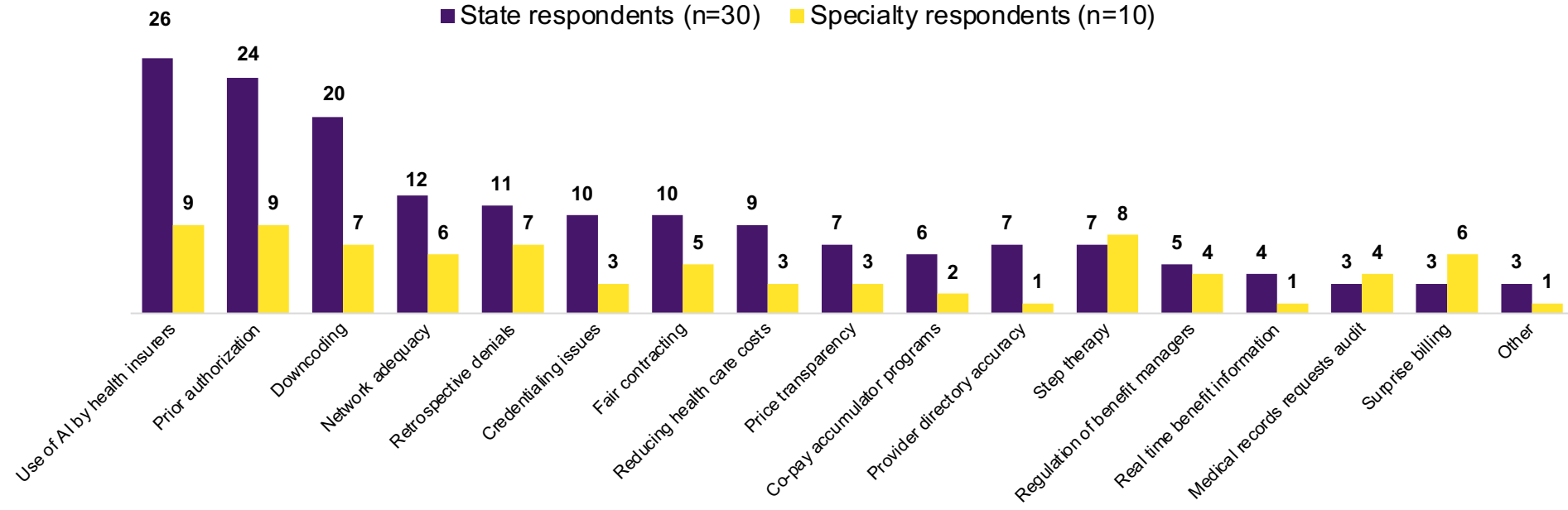
## Which of the following firearm issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



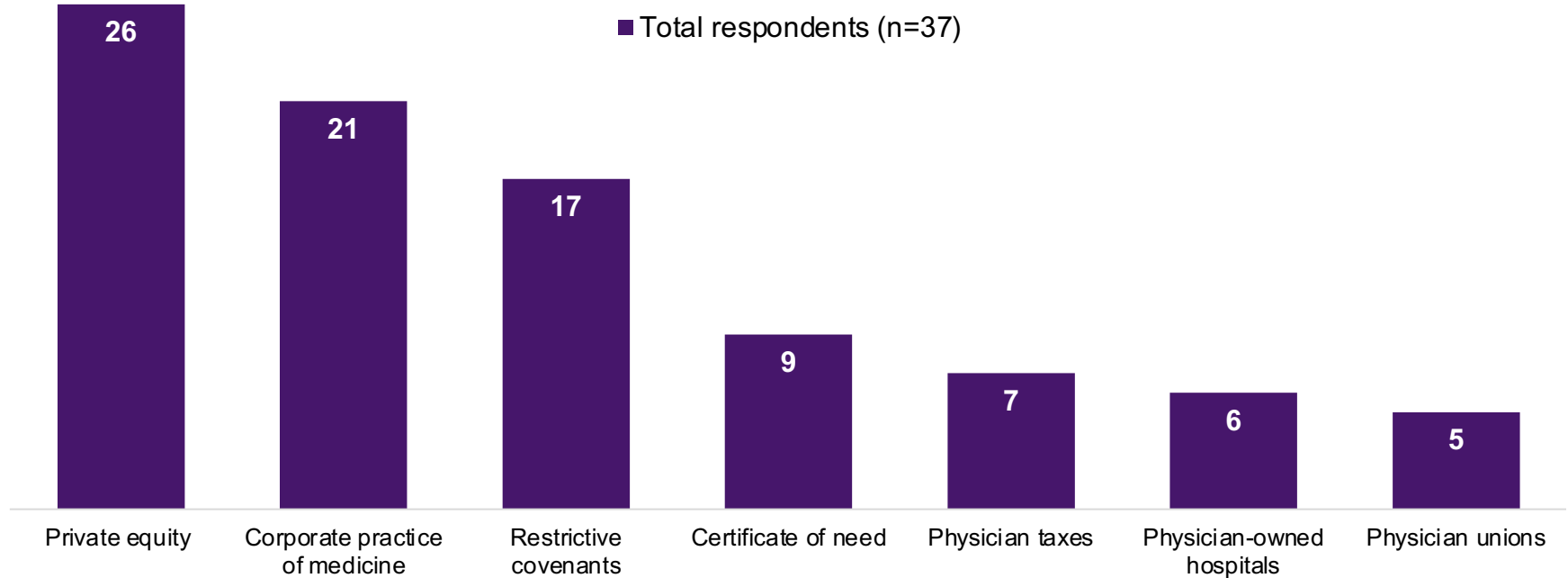
## Which of the following augmented/artificial intelligence issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



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

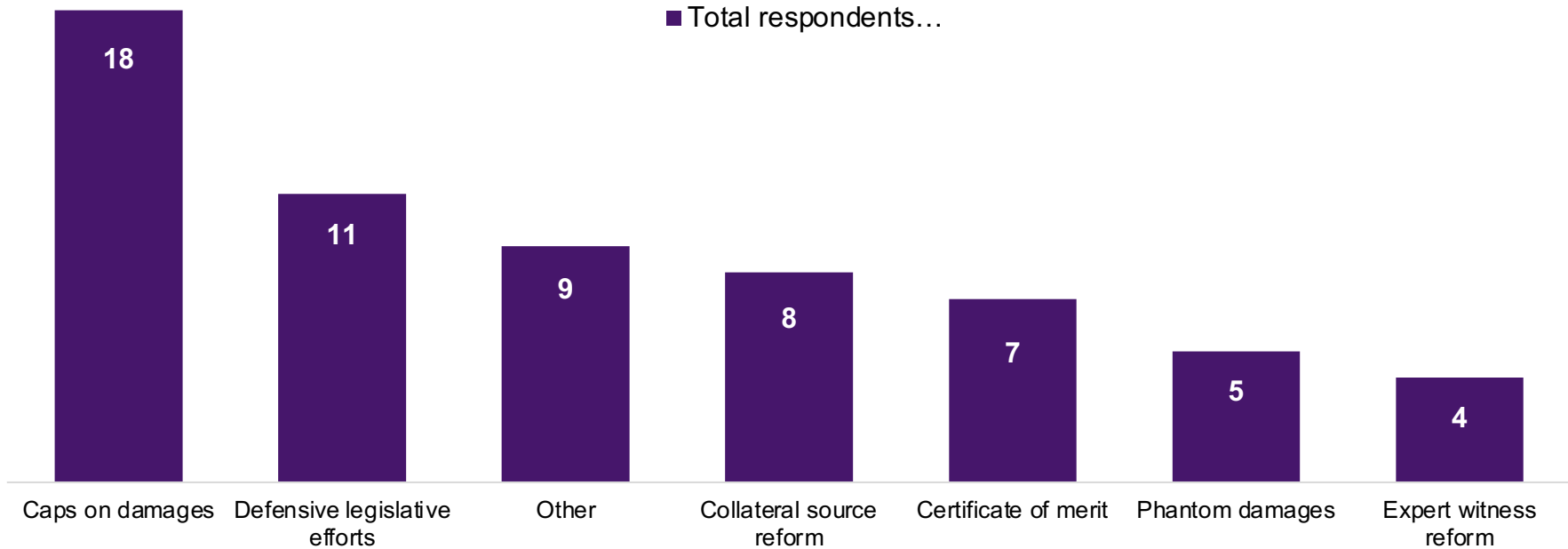


## Which of the following business of medicine issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?

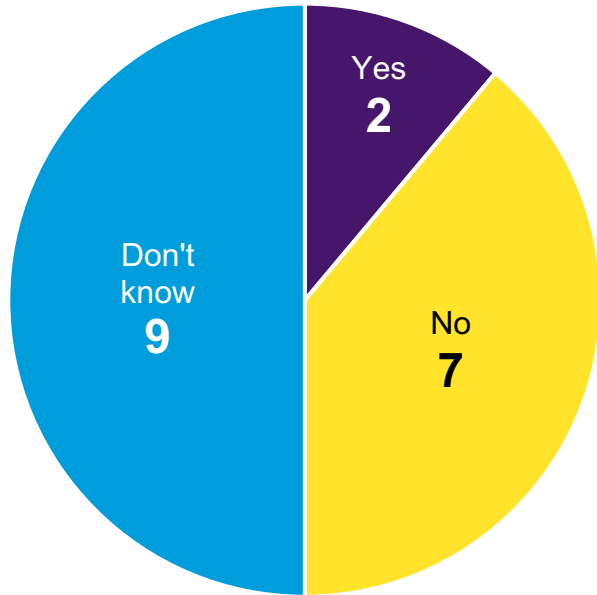




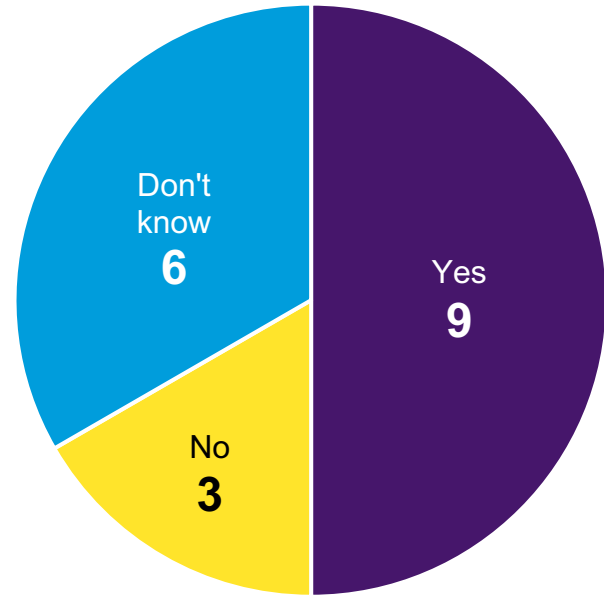
## Which of the following medical liability reform issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



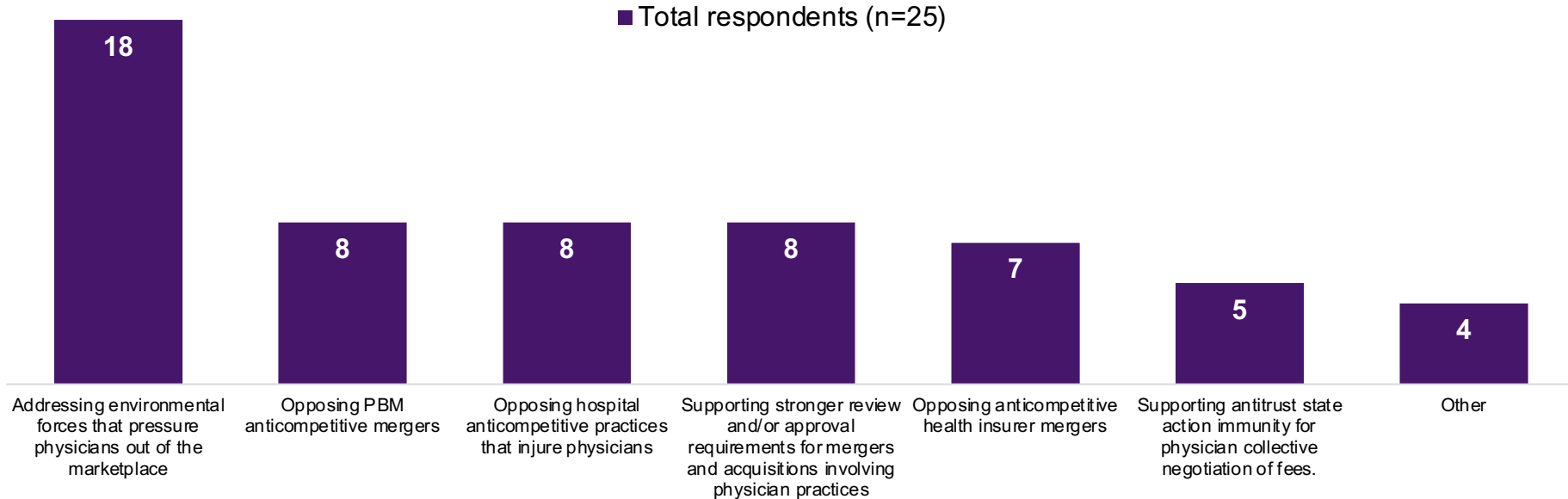
**Do you anticipate a judicial  
challenge to your cap on damages?  
(n=18)**



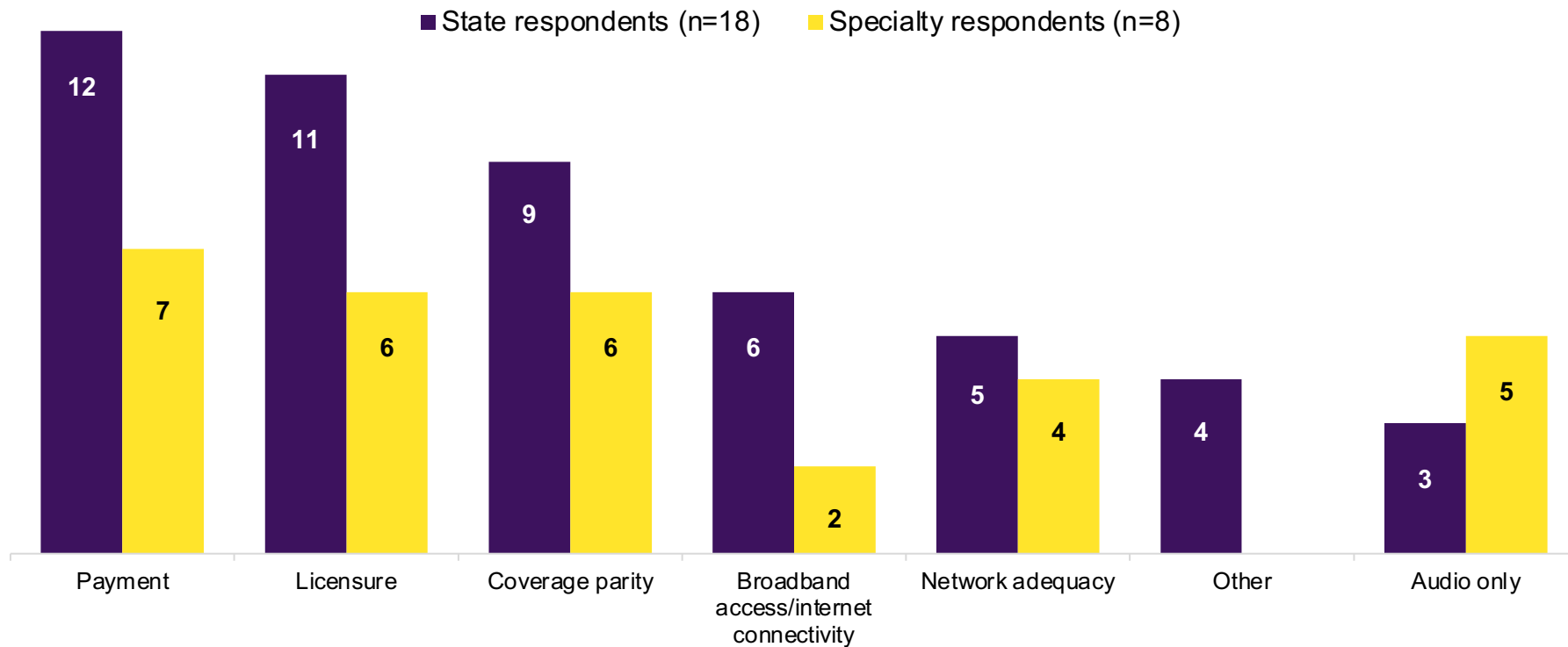
**Do you anticipate a legislative  
challenge to your cap on damages?  
(n=18)**



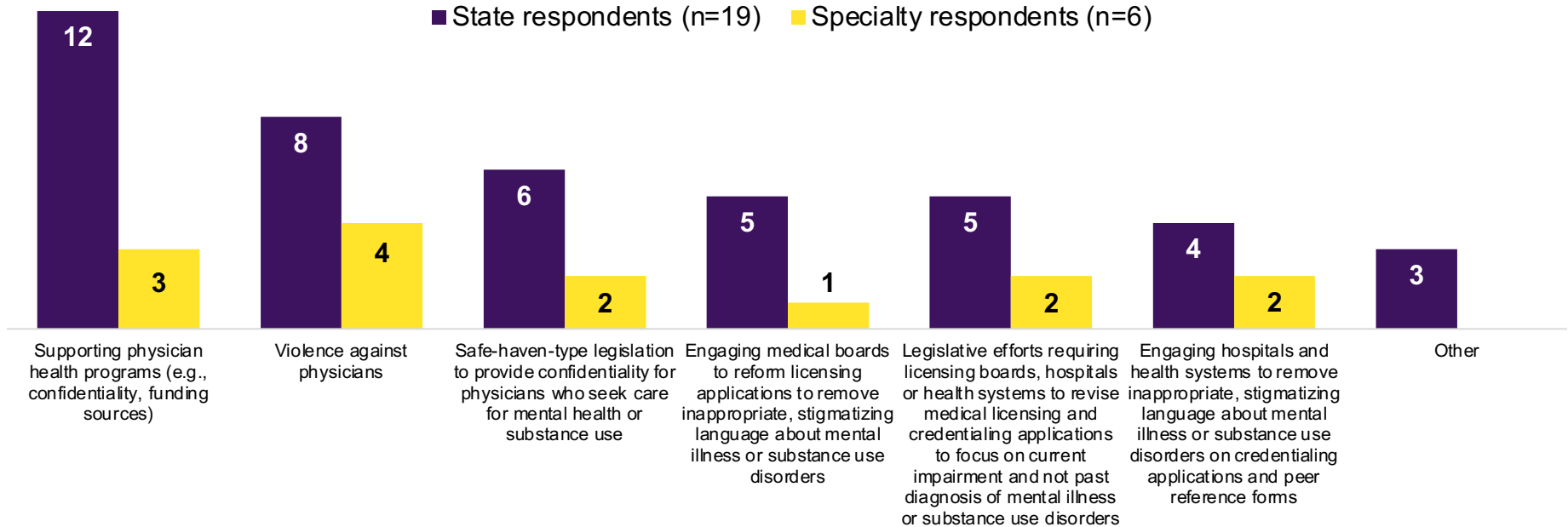
## Which of the following antitrust issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



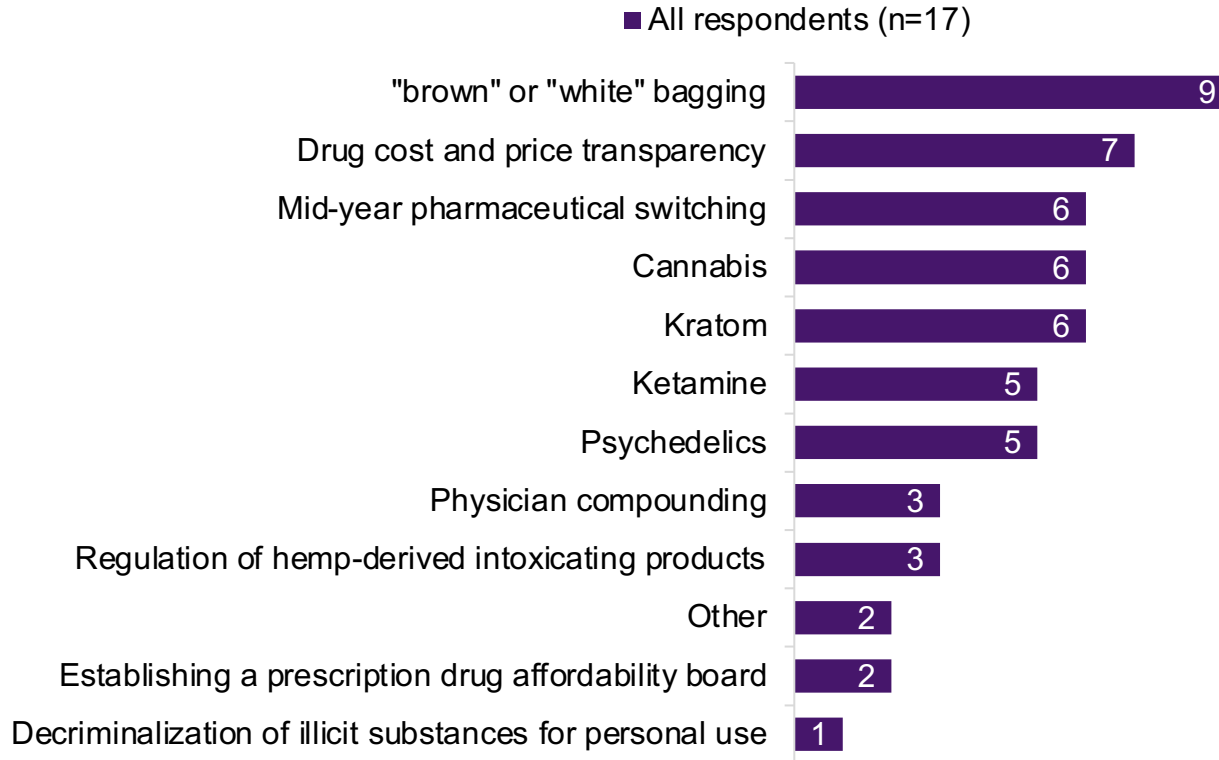
## Which of the following telehealth/telemedicine issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



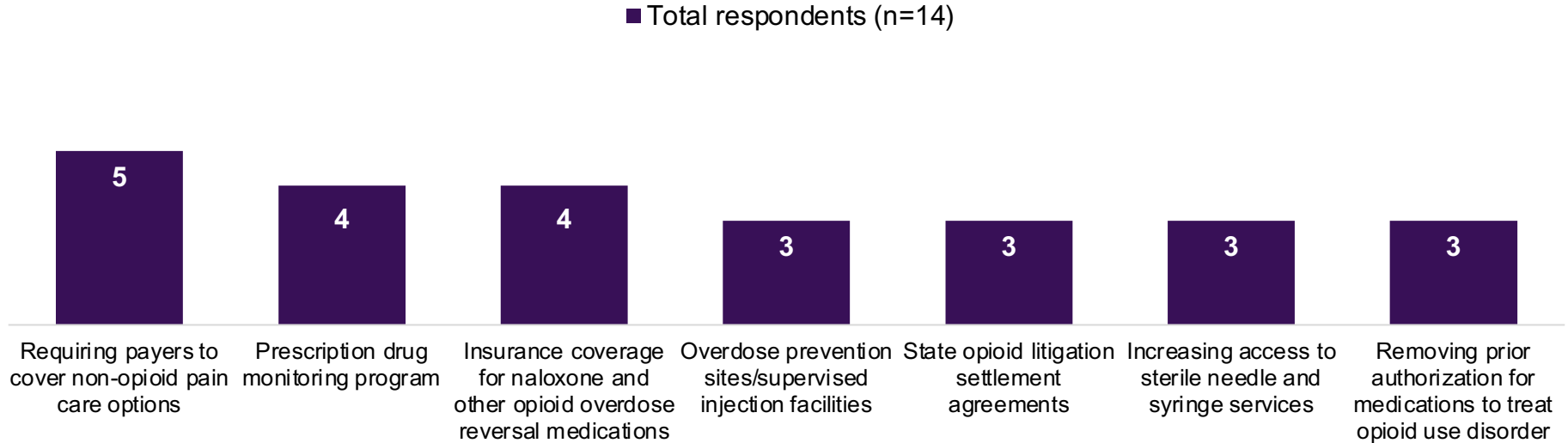
## Which of the following physician wellness issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?



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

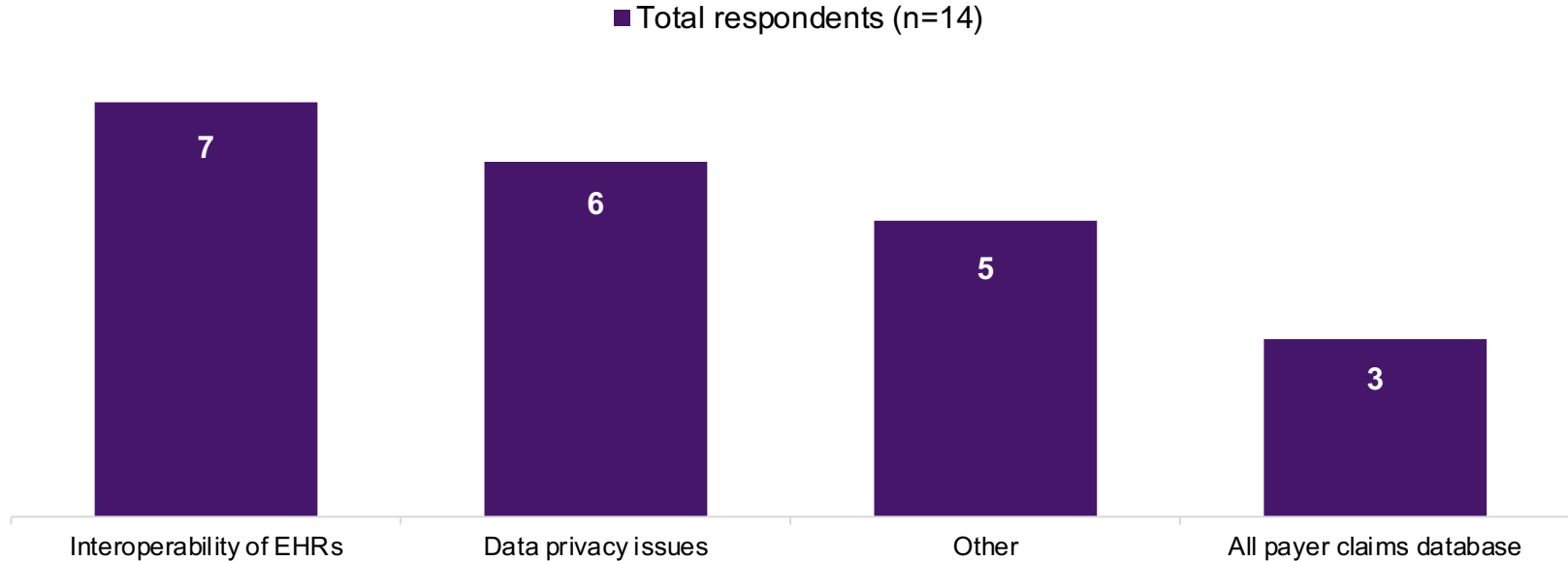


## Which of the following drug overdose epidemic issues does your association expect to work on in 2026?

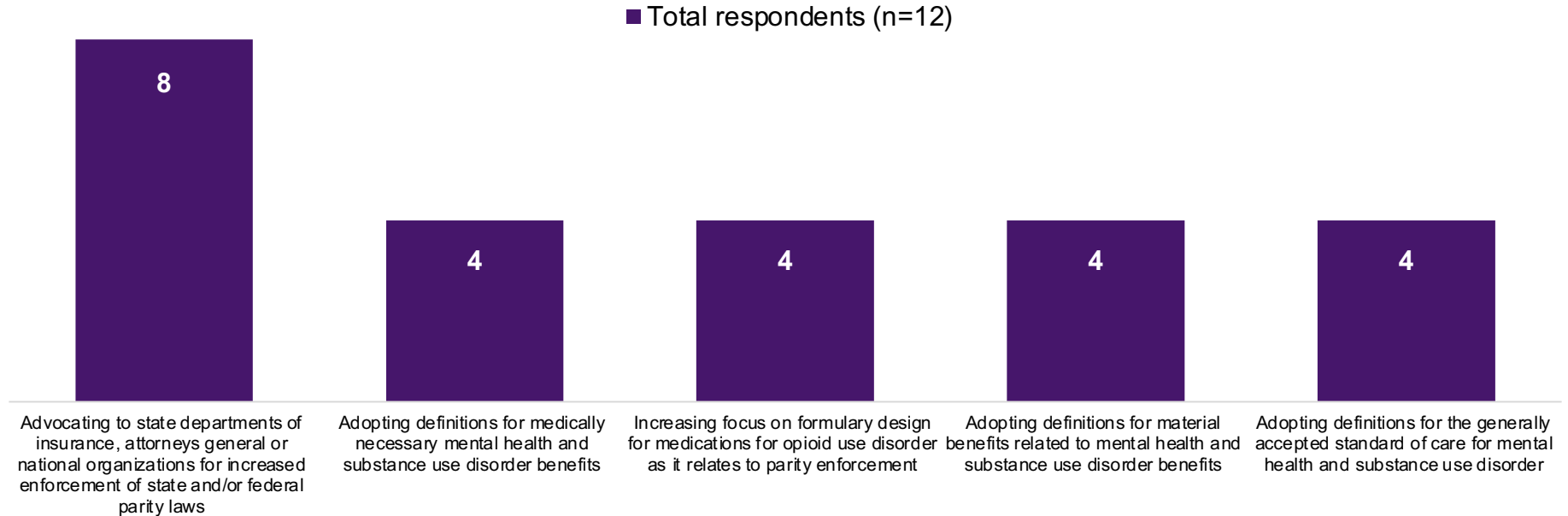




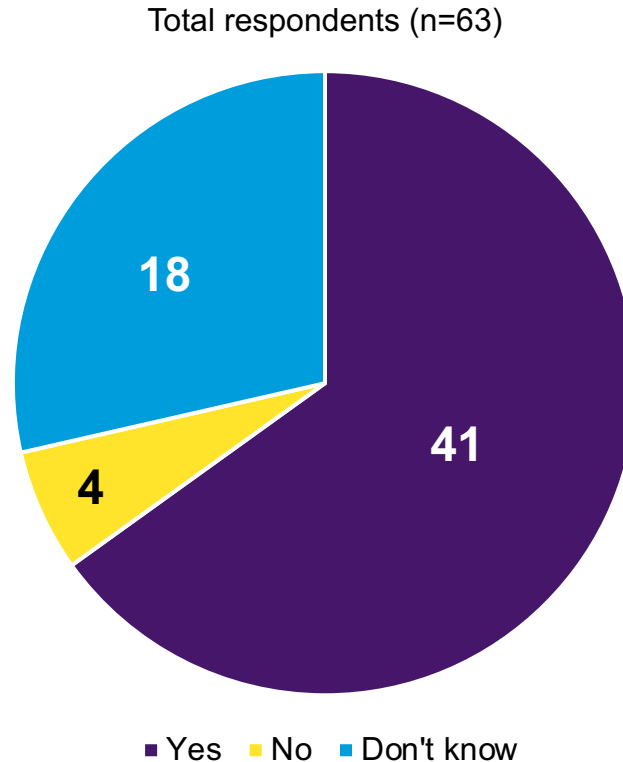
## Which of the following data/EHR Issues at the state level does your association expect to work on in 2026?



## 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?

