

Medical Association's Top 10 Highlights - 2021 Legislative Session



Securing COVID-19 Liability, Other Protections for Physicians & Practices

The Association worked to enact liability protection legislation for all care provided during the pandemic, in addition to, stopping frivolous lawsuits bills related to honest billing mistakes in Medicaid, and stopping legislatively-set standards of care, to name just a few.



Fighting "Scope Creep"

The Association fought back against "scope creep" bills and defended the physician-led, team-based care model.



Helping Physicians and Athletic Trainers Better Care for Patients

The Association worked with the Athletic Trainers Association to create a model protocol system, ensure physician supervisions, and generally update AT laws so as to improve access to high quality, team-based care.



Blocked Effort by Nursing Board to Seize Jurisdiction over Medical Assistants

The Association successfully fought off an attempt by the State Board of Nursing to potentially seize jurisdiction over – and charge licensure fees to – medical assistants working in physician offices.



Recruiting Physicians to Underserved Areas

The Association successfully maintained an increase for the second year in a row for the Board of Medical Scholarship Awards. At current funding levels, BMSA is able to annually grant 10 new medical school forgiveness loans to physicians agreeing to practice in medically underserved areas.



Advocating for Alabama Moms

For the second consecutive year, the Association's efforts to spotlight maternal mortality resulted in state funding to continue the work of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee. The Association also helped raise awareness of maternal mortality through a bipartisan resolution of support that passed the Legislature.



Increasing Access to At-Risk Populations

The Association worked successfully to enact a new local physician-led program that will utilize paramedics to reach at-risk patient populations in communities across the state.



Stopped Bills to Abolish Physician-led Health Care Organizations

Bills to abolish the Board of Medical Examiners, Medical Licensure Commission and State Committee of Public Health were stopped. Physician-members of county, state or national medical and specialty societies would have been banned from participating in organizations that regulate their profession under these bills.



Medical Cannabis Law was Revised to Include Provisions Supported by Physicians

This new law reflects changes voiced by Alabama physicians, specifically related to physician regulation, product inspection, tracking, and product regulation, to name a few.



Support Grows for Expanding Medicaid

The Association's work with the Cover Alabama Coalition helped raise awareness of the need to ensure access to care for those in the coverage gap. A recent poll showed 69% of Alabamians support expanding Medicaid.