



## CONNECTICUT STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY 2025 Legislative Priorities

In 2025, the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) will continue its advocacy for patients in Connecticut and the physicians who serve them. Our efforts will focus on strengthening the healthcare system and ensuring the delivery of high-quality care.

### CSMS' key priorities for 2025 include:

- ◆ **Ensuring Access to Care for Medicaid Patients:** Advocate for adequate physician reimbursement to maintain and expand access to primary and specialty care for Medicaid patients.
- ◆ **Reducing Barriers to Necessary Treatments:** Promote timely access to medically necessary treatments by minimizing unnecessary prior authorization requirements and removing hurdles like step therapy (building upon legislative advancements made in 2023/2024).
- ◆ **Enhancing Telehealth Services:** Support the preservation and expansion of telehealth services for Connecticut patients through their physicians while opposing the use of commercial telehealth networks for meeting network adequacy requirements.
- ◆ **Attracting and Retaining Top Medical Talent:** Develop pathways to recruit and retain top graduates from medical schools and post-graduate training programs in Connecticut.
- ◆ **Opposing Limits on Out-of-Network Physician Charges:** Protect patients' access to high-quality care by opposing legislative efforts to set arbitrary limits on out-of-network physician charges.
- ◆ **Mitigating the Impact of High-Deductible Health Plans:** Continue efforts to alleviate the negative effects of high-deductible health plans on patients and the physician-patient relationship.
- ◆ **Protecting Patient Safety:** Oppose initiatives that grant prescriptive authority to naturopaths to ensure the safety and well-being of patients.
- ◆ **Preserving Physician Autonomy:** Safeguard physician independence by advocating for policies that allow flexibility in practice locations and facilitate the buying and selling of practices without unnecessary restrictions, particularly those imposed through the Certificate of Need (CON) process.
- ◆ **Addressing Medical Liability Issues:** Work to reduce the adverse effects of medical liability on practice economics, physician well-being, and the societal costs associated with defensive medicine.
- ◆ **Tackling the Mental Health Crisis:** Address the challenges posed by insufficient mental health treatment capacity, including the issue of patients being held in emergency departments due to a lack of available resources.
- ◆ **Supporting Physician Well-Being:** Advocate for measures to reduce and prevent burnout, promote physician well-being, and raise awareness about mental health issues among healthcare professionals, including depression, anxiety, and suicide.

CSMS remains dedicated to advancing policies that support physicians and the patients they care for, ensuring a robust and equitable healthcare system for Connecticut.

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[www.CSMS.org](http://www.CSMS.org)

