



IOWA MEDICAL SOCIETY

Talking Points for Organized Medicine

Expand Physician Workforce

- Iowa is ranked 45th in the nation for patient to physician ratios per 100,000 population; this low physician density means greater workloads and higher chances for burnout (AAMC).
- Rural communities face challenges when trying to recruit and retain physicians.
- Loan repayment assistance is one of the most motivating incentives we can offer in recruitment.
- **Support an increase from \$2.5M to \$4M for full funding of the Iowa Rural Primary Care Loan Repayment Program.**

Reform Prior Authorization

- Prior authorization is an *administrative burden* that keeps physicians from being with patients which results in care delays, can lead to treatment abandonment, and may lead to an adverse event.
- Improving this process will cut down on administrative burden and expense for physician practices.
- **Support [HSB 641](#) - an IMS led bill introduced to reduce the administrative burden of prior authorization.**

Strengthen Medicaid

- Iowa Medicaid covers over 700,000 Iowans yearly; however, Iowa's low Medicaid reimbursement rates affect a physician's ability to accept new Medicaid patients - meaning patients may have coverage but not real access to care (AMA).
- Low reimbursement rates harm facilities' ability to recruit and retain physicians.
- **Support legislative actions that would increase physician Medicaid reimbursement rates.**

Expand Access to Care

- Iowa's Medicaid covers nearly *1 out of every 2 births* in the state - with many moms losing their Medicaid coverage 60 days after giving birth.
- Iowa is one of three states that hasn't extended Medicaid coverage to 12 months post-partum.
- **Support [HSB 643](#) - Governor's bill to expand Medicaid coverage to 12 months post-partum.**
- Iowa has a severe shortage of psychiatrists practicing in the state and of those who do, many are located primarily in Johnson County and to a lesser degree Polk County.
- **Support legislative opportunities to enhance access to mental health care services.**