
MSDC Advocacy Report Card, 23rd Council Period (January 2019-December 2020)

MSDC worked on numerous issues on behalf of physicians and patients this Council session. The issues below are organized by MSDC's advocacy rankings; names in green are MSDC victories for the session.

Priority Support (1 bill, 1 bill passed)

Bill name and number. [B23-430, Access to Biosimilars Amendment Act](#)

What would it do? Create a legal pathway for substituting FDA approved biosimilars for prescriptions

Did MSDC testify? Dr. Angus Worthing testified on behalf of MSDC.

What happened to the bill? After being introduced in the fall of 2019, the bill passed the Council in the summer of 2020 and was enacted into law.

Support (14 bills, 1 temporary bill, 1 emergency bill, 13 passed)

Bill name and number. [School Sunscreen Safety Temporary/ Emergency Amendment Act // B23-467, Student Access to Treatment Amendment Act](#)

What would it do? Permit sunscreen to be brought to DC public schools without a prescription.

Did MSDC testify? MSDC published a letter to Committee on Education calling for a hearing

What happened to the bill? Emergency and Temporary versions of an original bill passed the Council in January 2020. Language from the original bill was included in B23-467, which the Council passed in February 2020 and has been enacted.

Bill name and number. [B23-171, Minor Consent for Vaccinations Amendment Act](#)

What would it do? Permit minors to be vaccinated without parental consent if deemed able to give informed consent as decided by physician.

Did MSDC testify? GW medical student Liz Ghandakly, MPH, JD testified on MSDC's behalf and MSDC submitted a written statement.

What happened to the bill? MSDC worked with AAP-DC and committee staff to modify the bill to ensure its medical accuracy. The legislation passed the Council in November 2020, with the bill being enacted in December 2020.

Bill name and number. [B23-261, Electronic Medical Order for Scope of Treatment \(eMOST\) Registry Amendment Act.](#)

What would it do? Authorize DC Health to create an electronic advanced directive registry.

Did MSDC testify? MSDC submitted written testimony.

What happened to the bill? The bill passed the Council in December 2019 and was enacted in 2020.

Bill name and number. [B23-326, Postpartum Coverage Act](#)

What would it do? Extend postpartum inpatient and outpatient benefits to at least one year after childbirth.

Did MSDC testify? No

What happened to the bill? The bill became law on November 13, 2020.

Bill name and number. B23-36, Pre-exposure Prophylaxis Insurance Discrimination Amendment Act

What would it do? Prohibit insurance companies from factoring PreP usage into disability, life, or long-term care insurance coverage decisions.

Did MSDC testify? The bill did not receive a hearing

What happened to the bill? No action was taken on the bill.

Bill name and number. B23-434, Strengthening Reproductive Health Protections Amendment Act

What would it do? Among other things, prohibit employers from punishing physicians for their work in reproductive health outside of their main employment.

Did MSDC testify? Dr. Sara Imershein testified for MSDC and ACOG, and MSDC submitted a separate statement on MSDC's policy on abortion.

What happened to the bill? The bill became law May 15, 2020.

Bill name and number. B23-453, Flavored Electronic Smoking Device Prohibition Amendment Act.

What would it do? Prohibit the sale or distribution of flavored electronic smoking devices

Did MSDC testify? MSDC submitted a statement on smoking and vaping that covered three different vaping/smoking-related bills

What happened to the bill? A hearing was held in February 2020.

Bill name and number. B23-472, Electronic Smoking Device Sales Restriction Amendment Act

What would it do? Prohibit the sale or distribution of an electronic smoking device within a quarter mile of a school.

Did MSDC testify? MSDC submitted a statement on smoking and vaping that covered three different vaping/smoking-related bills

What happened to the bill? A hearing was held in February 2020.

Bill name and number. B23-535, Opioid Labeling Amendment Act

What would it do? Require prescription opioid medications to include a statement that the drug is an opioid and the implications of this.

Did MSDC testify? Dr. Samuel Kareff testified on behalf of MSDC. MSDC included an AMA report on opioid prescribing with its written testimony.

What happened to the bill? The bill passed the Council in November 2020. The Mayor signed it and as of December 31, the bill is undergoing a required Congressional review.

Bill name and number. B23-529, Certificate of Stillbirth Amendment Act

What would it do? Require DC Health to create a certificate of stillbirth for parents, but prohibit the usage of the certificate to calculate live birth statistics or be used to create liability.

Did MSDC testify? Dr. Sam Kareff testified on behalf of MSDC

What happened to the bill? The bill passed the Council in November 2020. The Mayor signed it and as of December 31, the bill is undergoing a required Congressional review.

Bill name and number. B23-565, Hearing Aid Sales Amendment Act

What would it do? Require minors and adults to receive medical clearance from an otolaryngologist and a hearing test before being fitted for a hearing aid. An adult may receive clearance from any physician.

Did MSDC testify? MSDC submitted written testimony.

What happened to the bill? Even before the bill was written, MSDC was involved in crafting the bill's language. It helped with technical corrections before the bill passed the Council in July 2020. The bill became law on November 13, 2020.

Bill name and number. B23-584, [Pregnancy as a Qualifying Event Act](#)

What would it do? Require health insurers to provide a special enrollment period after commencement of a pregnancy.

Did MSDC testify? Dr. Sara Imershein testified on behalf of ACOG and MSDC.

What happened to the bill? The bill became law on November 13, 2020.

Bill name and number. B23-920, [Insulin Affordability Amendment Act](#)

What would it do? Limit the amount a person pays for an insulin prescription.

Did MSDC testify? Dr. Sahil Angelo testified on behalf of MSDC

What happened to the bill? The bill passed the Council on December 15, 2020. As of December 31, the Mayor had not yet signed the bill but is expected to do so.

Bill name and number. B23-532, [Dr. Montague Cobb Way Designation Act](#)

What would it do? Designate the 600 block of W Street NW as Dr. Montague Cobb Way

Did MSDC testify? Dr. Susanne Bathgate testified on behalf of MSDC

What happened to the bill? The bill passed the Council on December 11, 2020. The legislation is currently undergoing the Congressional review process.

Support for specific bill provisions

- [MSDC successfully advocated for language in the 2021 Budget Support Act to fund the Health Professionals Loan Repayment Program and permit reimbursement of audio-only telemedicine.](#)

Support with Suggested Changes (1 bill, 0 passed)

Bill name and number. B23-339, Female Genital Mutilation Prohibition Act

What would it do? Prohibit FGM and provide for a civil action.

Did MSDC testify? No hearing was held

What happened to the bill? No action was taken on the bill.

Priority Oppose

None

Oppose (2 bills, 0 passed)

Bill name and number. B23-360, [Continuing Nutrition Education Amendment Act](#)

What would it do? Mandate CME on nutrition

Did MSDC testify? MSDC submitted written comments

What happened to the bill? The bill received a hearing on November 13, 2019.

Bill name and number. B23-543, [Suicide Prevention Continuing Education Amendment Act](#)

What would it do? Mandate CME on suicide prevention

Did MSDC testify? Dr. Yavar Moghimi testified on behalf of MSDC against the bill.

What happened to the bill? The bill had a hearing on July 29, 2020.

Oppose without Suggested Changes (3 bill, 2 passed with changes)

Bill name and number. B23-362, [Maternal Health Care Improvement and Expansion Act](#)

What would it do? Of importance to MSDC, mandate CME hours for cultural competence

Did MSDC testify? Dr. Sara Imershein represented MSDC and ACOG in testifying before the Council, and MSDC submitted a statement opposing the CME provision.

What happened to the bill? The bill had a committee hearing on December 18, 2019

Bill name and number. B23-269, Health Care Reporting Act

What would it do? Establish a timeline for an employer to report an action taken against a healthcare provider

Did MSDC testify? MSDC testified in writing and followed up with staff about a concern that the language would disincentivize employers from helping physicians with an addiction seek help.

What happened to the bill? The bill was amended by the committee to successfully rewrite the concerning language. It became law July 24, 2020.

Bill name and number. B23-322, Window Blind Safety Notification Act

What would it do? Require hospitals and healthcare facilities to provide notice on the danger of window blinds

Did MSDC testify? MSDC submitted written testimony opposing requiring mandated, government-written information be given to patients. MSDC worked with staff post-hearing to amend the language.

What happened to the bill? The bill with the amended language became law November 13, 2020

Other issues where MSDC testified or provided information

- Dr. Sam Kareff testified on B23-534, Lyme Disease Testing Information Disclosure, and on B23-690, the SMA Screening Act, on July 29. MSDC had no position on either bill.
- Dr. Alice Fuiz and Dr. Neal Barnard testified on the Committee on Health COVID-19 oversight hearing on October 28.
- Dr. Desiree Pineda testified on behalf of MSDC at the Committee on Health 2021 budget oversight hearing on June 10, 2020.
- Dr. Laurie Duncan testified on behalf of MSDC at the February 20 Committee on Health budget hearing.
- Dr. Julian Craig testified on behalf of MSDC and private physician practices at a hearing for the new Ward 8 hospital hearing on June 30, 2020.
- Dr. Desiree Pineda testified before the Board of Medicine on the Healthy Physician Program on July 29, 2020.
- Drs. Pineda, Fuisz, Craig, and Angus Worthing spoke at a Committee on Health roundtable on the impact of COVID on physician practices in April 2020.