
MSDC Advocacy Report Card, 24th Council Period (January 2021-December 2022)

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 (3 bills, 1 bill passed)

Bill name and number. B24-942, Consent for the Vaccinations of Minors Amendment Act

What would it do? Create a legal structure to allow informed minors to receive vaccinations without parental consent in certain circumstances

Did MSDC testify? MSDC submitted written testimony and created a working group to help craft the bill

What happened to the bill? The bill was introduced in response to legal issues with the original legislation MSDC supported in 2019. The legislation was fast tracked through the Committee on Health and Council and is currently awaiting the Mayor's signature as of this writing.

Bill name and number. B24-557, Copay Accumulator Amendment Act

What would it do? Require insurers to apply discounts when calculating coinsurance or cost-sharing measures

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

What happened to the bill? The legislation had a hearing in the Committee on Health but failed to receive a mark-up.

Bill name and number. B24-655, Prior Authorization Reform Amendment Act

What would it do? Reform the prior auth process to make it less burdensome to providers

Did MSDC testify? The bill did not receive a hearing

What happened to the bill? After being introduced in the spring of 2022, the legislation did not receive a hearing due to a crowded legislative calendar.

Support (6 bills, 2 emergency bills, 6 passed)

Bill name and number. B24-019, Electronic Smoking Device Sales Restriction Amendment Act // B24-020, Flavored Electronic Smoking Device Prohibition Amendment Act

What would it do? Prohibit the sale of electronic smoking devices near schools and prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products

Did MSDC testify? MSDC sent written testimony to the hearing

What happened to the bill? The two bills were merged into B24-020 during the committee mark-up. The legislation became L24-25 on October 8, 2021

Bill name and number. B24-143, Certified Midwife Credential Amendment Act

What would it do? Regulated certified midwives under the Board of Nursing

Did MSDC testify? No

What happened to the bill? The Council passed the legislation October 5, 2021.

Bill name and number. B24-852 High Need Health Care Careers Scholarship and Healthcare Loan Repayment Program Emergency Act / B24-943 High Need Health Care Careers Scholarship and Healthcare Loan Repayment Program Amendment Act

What would it do? Expand the scope and repayment options for healthcare practitioners in high-need areas

Did MSDC testify? MSDC submitted written testimony.

What happened to the bill? The emergency bill passed the Council in June 2021 and was subsequently followed by the permanent legislation this December. DC Health met with the MSDC Advocacy Committee and Board of Directors to discuss the need for this legislation.

Bill name and number. PR24-349, Uniform Emergency Volunteer Healthcare Practitioners Emergency Declaration Resolution

What would it do? Allow temporary medical licenses to be issued through December 2021

Did MSDC testify? MSDC submitted a letter of support with other healthcare associations.

What happened to the bill? The emergency bill passed the Council in August 2021.

Bill name and number. B24-029, Minor Consent to Healthcare for HIV and AIDS Clarification Amendment Act

What would it do? Allow informed minors to consent to HIV/AIDS treatment without parental consent

Did MSDC testify? Dr. Klint Peebles testified on behalf of MSDC.

What happened to the bill? No action was taken on the bill. The Committee on Health asked MSDC to create a working group to give medial guidance on legislation like this where minor consent to treatment without parental consent is appropriate. The working group's recommendations were released spring 2022.

Bill name and number. B24-829, Medical Malpractice Clarification Amendment Act

What would it do? Prohibit medical malpractice carriers from discriminating against physicians who provide abortions

Did MSDC testify? MSDC member Dr. Sara Imershein testified

What happened to the bill? A hearing was held in October 2022.

Support for specific bill provisions

- MSDC successfully advocated for language in the 2023 budget to support the hiring of more FTEs at DC Health to supporting licensing.

Support with Suggested Changes

None

Priority Oppose

None

Oppose (1 bills, 0 passed)

Bill name and number. B24-305, PEO Registration Act

What would it do? Require Professional Employer Organizations that offer insurance to register with DISB, but not need to comply with ACA requirements

Did MSDC testify? MSDC member Dr. Kotwal testified in opposition to bill

What happened to the bill? The bill received a hearing and was marked-up but did not pass the Council.

Oppose without Suggested Changes (1 bill, 1 passed with changes)

Bill name and number. B24-133, Personal Medical Record Fee Amendment Act

What would it do? Require medical records to be retained for 10 years and set a fee for producing records

Did MSDC testify? Dr. Alice Fuisz testified against the legislation's retention requirement and fee structure.

What happened to the bill? The bill was amended to reduce the retention requirement to 7 years and to adjust the fee requirement to match Maryland's. The Council passed the legislation on December 20.

Other issues where MSDC testified or provided information

- MSDC testified on B24-092, the Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Omnibus Act in writing
- As MSDC President, Dr. EW Emanuel testified at the budget hearings for DC Health and the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services in 2021. MSDC submitted a follow-up letter to the DC Health budget.
- Dr. Laurie Duncan testifies on behalf of MSDC at a special COVID response hearing in May 2021
- MSDC testified verbally in 2022 for the DC Health oversight hearing and in writing for the Department of Health Care Finance hearing and Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA) hearing
- MSDC and allies submitted letters supporting the prior authorization and copay bills; asked the Council to ensure beneficiaries were considered in the Managed Care Organization transition; and expressed concern with the certificate of need process.