



## 2024 FEDERAL ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

MMA President Paul Cain, MD and CEO Andrew MacLean appreciate the opportunity to meet with members/staff of Maine's federal delegation during the AMA National Advocacy Conference from April 12-14, 2024. The MMA is Maine's largest physician professional organization representing more than 4000 physicians, residents, and medical students. Our mission is to support Maine physicians, advance the quality of medicine in Maine, and promote the health of all Maine people.

We would be pleased to discuss any of the following topics among MMA's top public policy priorities during our visits.

- ⇒ Medicare Physician Payment Schedule
  - [2024 Medicare Physician Payment Schedule](#) concerns are the top federal priority for Maine physicians.
  - Lack of an adequate inflationary adjustment in the fee schedule and impact of the Geographic Practice Cost Index (GPCI) in Maine mean that Medicare reimbursement does not cover practice costs; these payment shortfalls jeopardize the viability of many medical practices because of Maine's significant Medicare eligible population.
  - Maine is challenged in recruitment and retention of physicians in a national market for physician services.
- ⇒ Gun Safety and the Response to the Mass Shooting in Lewiston on October 25, 2023
  - MMA members are speaking out through the [Maine Gun Safety Coalition](#) and [Maine Providers for Gun Safety](#)
  - 4 priorities: restrictions on "assault weapons" and high-capacity magazines; expanded background check requirements for purchases; waiting period for purchases; and review of "yellow flag" law regarding temporary removal of firearms from individuals who are at risk of harm to themselves or others.
- ⇒ Health workforce issues: Graduate Medical Education and Immigration
  - Primary care and OB/GYN care in rural Maine are in crisis; funding for innovative training opportunities for practitioners, especially family physicians, in maternity care, including operative deliveries, is necessary.
  - Need to reduce or eliminate limits on immigration and other barriers to integrating foreign-trained health care workers in the US health care system; Report of the [Commission Regarding Foreign-Trained Physicians Living in Maine](#) may present a pathway to ensure competence and to bring these workers into the US health care workforce safely
- ⇒ Clinician Wellness and Resilience
  - [Caring for the Caregiver: Building a Resilient Workforce and Organization](#), March 13, 2024 in Augusta co-sponsored by the MMA and the Maine Hospital Association, with co-sponsorship also by the Maine Primary Care Association, the Maine Health Care Association, the Home Care & Hospice Alliance, the Maine Nurse
  -



# Maine Medical Association

Paul Cain, MD, President | R. Scott Hanson, MD, MPH, President-Elect | James R. Jarvis, MD, Chair, Board of Directors  
Andrew B. MacLean, JD, CEO | Anne Sedlack, Esq., MSW, Director of Advocacy

- Practitioner Association, the Maine Association of Physician Assistants, and the Organization of Nursing Leaders in Maine.
  
- ⇒ Response to the OUD Crisis
  - Maine health care professional organizations' initiative, [1000 Lives Campaign for Maine](#) began January 1, 2024.
  - Methadone treatment should be available to clinicians as a part of outpatient medication-assisted treatment.
  - 42 CFR Part 2 is outdated and furthers the stigma of SUD and its treatment by distinguishing such data from other protected health information; it should be rescinded.
  
- ⇒ Prior Authorization Reform/Price Transparency
  - Administrative burdens on medical practice intrude on and detract from the physician-patient relationship; they also are a significant cause of clinician burnout.
  - CMS rulemaking for Medicare Advantage plans and Maine LD 796 are positive steps to put reasonable parameters on prior authorization.
  - No Surprises Act price transparency ("Good Faith Estimate") requirements remain a concern.
  
- ⇒ Health Care Reform
  - Maine physicians are frustrated with the *status quo* in our health care system and believe that comprehensive change is urgent; polling results of Maine physicians since 2008 consistently show strong majority support for a single payer, "Medicare for All" approach to health care reform.
  - MMA's [Statement on Reform of the US Health Care System](#)

## SAVE THE DATE

**171<sup>st</sup> Annual Session September 6-8, 2024**  
**The Harborside Hotel & Marina, Bar Harbor, Me**