

2023 MID-SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Here are several legislative developments NCMS has worked on during this year's session.

175

BILLS
MONITORED

2,817

ADVOCACY EMAILS
SENT TO LEGISLATORS

75

KEY CONTACT
MEMBERS

50

MEETINGS WITH
LEGISLATORS

2,256

HEALTHCARE LEADERS
ENGAGED IN OUR
ADVOCACY EFFORTS

10

WHITE COAT
DAYS HELD



HB 649- ENSURE TIMELY/CLINICALLY SOUND UTILIZATION REVIEW

NCMS aided in the creation of this prior authorization reform bill and has worked diligently toward its passage in the House. The bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

- This legislation has multiple provisions to ensure patients will receive timely medical care and requires prior authorization decisions be made by qualified health care providers.



SB 20- CARE FOR WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND FAMILIES ACT

NCMS opposed this bill impacting reproductive health and issued a statement in opposition. This bill passed the House and Senate, was vetoed by Governor Cooper, and became law when both chambers voted to override.

- This legislation will not allow abortions after 12 weeks gestation, with some exceptions for rape, incest, fetal anomaly, and health of the mother, among other provisions.



HB 76- ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE OPTIONS (MEDICAID EXPANSION)

NCMS has long supported this bill and Medicaid Expansion. We applaud the House, Senate, and Governor Cooper for passing and signing this bill. The House and Senate must pass a budget before expansion can go into effect.

- This legislation will expand Medicaid coverage to over 600,000 North Carolinians and make the state eligible for a one-time \$1.8 billion bonus from the federal government through the Healthcare Access and Stabilization Program (HASP). HASP will primarily help stabilize rural hospitals that have experienced financial hardship. HB 76 would expand postpartum coverage for mothers and create a statewide workforce development program.



HB 576- HEALTHCARE PRACTITIONER TRANSPARENCY ACT

NCMS supports this bill and applauds its passage in the House. It now heads to the Senate for consideration.

- This legislation, also known as "truth in advertising", is a patient/consumer protection measure to require healthcare providers to clearly display their clinical credentials (MD, DO, NP, PA, etc.) and prohibits display of deceptive or misleading information.



HB 809- HOSPITAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT

NCMS supports this bill and its passage in the House. It now heads to the Senate for consideration.

- This legislation seeks to minimize the likelihood of violence by ensuring health care facilities develop safety protocols to address risks identified by the care team, security personnel, and local law enforcement.



HB 560- DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING PARITY

NCMS supports this bill and its passage in the house. It now heads to the Senate.

- This legislation would provide healthcare coverage parity for breast cancer diagnostic imaging and would require coverage for certain other types of imaging.



SB 76/HB 72- FIREARM SAFE STORAGE AWARENESS INITIATIVE

NCMS supports this bill. The text of this bill was added to another bill, which has been passed into law.

- This legislation would launch statewide safe storage initiative to educate about safe storage and distribute free gun locks.



HB 218/SB 175- THE SAVE ACT

NCMS opposes this bill and continues to promote patient safety in its efforts to educate policy makers on the impact this legislation would have on quality, access, and cost of care. The bill has not yet been heard in either chamber.

- This legislation would allow advance practice nurses to practice without physician involvement.



HB 739- UPDATE REQUIREMENTS/ADVANCE HEALTHCARE DIRECTIVES

NCMS supports this bill and applauds its passage in the House. It now heads to the Senate for consideration.

- This patient-focused legislation facilitates access to health care powers of attorney and advance health care directives by modernizing and enhancing the advance care planning process.



HB 808- YOUTH HEALTH PROTECTION ACT

NCMS worked tirelessly to remove language from this bill which would repeal minor consent protections. The NCMS remains opposed to the bill due to its interference with the patient-clinician relationship, but are pleased the minor consent protections have been preserved. NCMS will continue to seek protection of current minor consent statutes.

- This legislation would disallow hormone replacement therapy and other surgical procedures for minors.



HB 161- PROTECTING PROPERLY INSURED INDIVIDUALS

NCMS opposes this bill which would overturn tort reforms achieved in 2011. This bill failed to meet the crossover deadline this year.

- This legislation would modify the evidence that may be used to establish the amount of recoverable medical expenses for a personal injury claim.



SB 324- INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT

NCMS supports this bill, as it would allow physicians to easily transfer their license from state to state. The bill has not yet passed either chamber.

- This legislation would allow North Carolina to join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC). 42 states have enacted IMLC legislation.



HB 346/SB 296- REORGANIZATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT

NCMS met with BCBSNC leadership, the bill's sponsors, NC Department of Insurance representatives, and other stakeholders to recommend improvements to this bill by adding guardrails on investments and to promote continued transparency. NCMS was able to advise significant improvements, but the the bill's current language does not include all recommended changes. The bill has passed the House and heads to the Senate for consideration where NCMS will continue to work to gain support for provisions to address the Society's concerns.

- This legislation establishes rules for hospital service corporation reorganization by creating a nonprofit holding corporation.



SB 236- MODERNIZE AUDIOLOGY PRACTICE LAWS

NCMS has worked over the past several sessions with audiologists, ENT physicians, and legislators to resolve concerns over amendments to the statute governing the audiology scope of practice. The bill has passed Senate and is in the House where NCMS hopes to see further revisions to resolve patient safety concerns.

- This legislation would modify scope practice for of audiologists and acknowledges the FDA's ruling to enable greater access to over-the-counter hearing aids



HB 654- PHARMACISTS/VACCINE ADMIN./TEST AND TREAT

NCMS opposes this bill as it would allow pharmacists to treat certain illnesses after testing, which constitutes diagnosis. This bill failed to meet the crossover deadline this year.

- This legislation would allow the scope of pharmacists to include testing and treatment for certain illnesses, in addition to making pharmacists eligible for reimbursement for services or procedures performed.



SB 588/HB 440- DIRECT CARE WORK WAGE INCREASES/INNOVATION WAIVER

NCMS supports this bill. The language in this bill has been added to the draft budgets.

- This legislation would increase certain Medicaid rates in order to raise the wages of direct care workers who provide Medicaid services through the NC Innovation Waiver Program.