TMA’S TOP LEGISLATIVE WINS IN 2019

Texas Medical Board
✔ Renewal of the Texas Medical Board (TMB) through 2031, an expedited licensing process for out-of-state physicians, and timely removal of negative information from a physician’s TMB profile. (HB 1504 by Paddie and Nichols)

Maternal Health
✔ $68 million increase for women’s health programs and $7 million extra to implement measures to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity.

Mental/Behavioral Health
✔ $150 million budget increase for mental health services and psychiatry workforce expansion.

Scope of Practice
✔ Defeated more than 20 dangerous scope of practice bills.

Pharmacy/Opioids
✔ Delayed implementation of the state’s prescription monitoring program (PMP) mandate to March 2020 to allow time to integrate PMP into electronic health record systems; plus $5 million in supplemental funds for improved PMP interface and subscriber licenses. (HB 3284 by Sheffield and Nelson) and (SB 500 by Nelson and Zerwas)

Insurance
✔ More explicit prior authorization procedures and more transparency regarding denials, requirements, and reviews. (SB 1742 by Menendez and Julie Johnson)
✔ A surprise billing arbitration process that takes the patient out of surprise billing battles while giving physicians a fairer shake on payment. (SB 1264 by Hancock and Oliverson)
✔ Mandatory network adequacy reviews for PPOs and EPOs. (HB 3911 by Vo and Campbell)

Public Health
✔ An increase to age 21 for buying tobacco and vaping products. (SB 21 by Huffman and Zerwas)
✔ Extended the life of the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT) for 10 years. (HB 39 by Zerwas and Nelson)

Medical Education
✔ Secured record levels of state funding for medical schools and graduate medical education.