MMA’s experienced legislative team was able to influence lawmakers to pass laws that improved the health of Minnesotans, increased access to medical care, restored graduate medical education funding and, for the first time in more than a decade, increased physician reimbursement for Medical Assistance (MA).

The team also ran interference on various laws that would have proved harmful to Minnesota physicians. For example, they stopped efforts to reinstate the provider tax and blocked a “botax” bill that would have taxed certain cosmetic surgical procedures and increased administrative burdens for medical practices.

“We have to keep our eyes and ears open at all times,” says Dave Renner, MMA’s director of state and federal legislation. “Each year more than 3,000 bills are introduced. It’s important that we keep an eye on the countless ways these proposals can impact physicians and their patients.”

2013 Legislative Session

A Success for Minnesota Physicians

Physicians and their patients were big winners at the state Capitol in 2013.
Here’s a quick review of the 2013 session:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MMA Priority Issue</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Why Important to Physicians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Expanding Medical Assistance in Minnesota | Passed | 34,000 more Minnesotans will have access to health coverage and get the care they need from a physician.  
Patients will be healthier because they are seeing a physician before a condition becomes serious.  
Physician reimbursement for MA care is being increased for the first time in more than a decade. |
| Establishing a Minnesota-based health insurance exchange (MNsure) | Passed | Thousands more Minnesotans will have access to health coverage through the private market.  
It will be easier for Minnesotans to shop for insurance coverage and a “healthier” set of insurance benefits.  
Physicians will benefit from having more patients covered by private insurance and seeking care.  
Physicians will see improved payment for services and have less concern about bad debt and collections.  
The MNsure Board of Directors will have a physician representative to provide the physician viewpoint on health insurance exchange decisions. |
| Ensuring the continued phase-out of the provider tax | Accomplished | Thanks to MMA, legislators quickly abandoned plans to rescind the provider tax repeal. |
| Increasing the tobacco tax to reduce smoking rates | Passed | Physicians’ patients are the big winners as fewer will experience chronic conditions such as emphysema, cancer and heart disease.  
Raising the tax will help 36,000 Minnesotans stop smoking and prevent 47,000 children from starting. |
| Restoring Medical Education and Research Costs (MERC) funding. | Passed | MERC is critical to addressing our physician workforce needs.  
When funding is renewed, more residency training slots become available.  
The funding invests in the next generation of physicians to ensure medical care will be available to patients in the future. |
| Promoting collaborative care delivery, not independent practice, for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs). | Legislation did not receive a hearing. | Patients are best served when care is provided by a team of practitioners with physicians playing a key role in that care.  
Our laws must promote a team approach to care with requirements in place to ensure high quality care. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Why important to physicians</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| State Health Improvement Program (SHIP) funding restored. | Approved                                  | • Grants to local communities will lead to healthier Minnesotans.  
• Tobacco remains the No. 1 preventable cause of death and disease, and obesity is a leading cause of many preventable chronic conditions. |
| Botax bill                                       | Proposal was dropped                      | • Bill would have implemented another tax on health care services.  
• Our actions prevented the necessity of tax officials auditing patient medical records to determine which cosmetic surgical procedures may be taxed.  
• We also prevented added administrative burdens on your staff as they spent time determining which procedures would be taxed. |
| Mandatory CME programs for physicians            | Proposal was dropped                      | • Specific CME requirements result in many physicians having to take classes they wouldn’t need as part of their practice.  
• These legislatively mandated classes have never shown to improve the care provided. |
| Compounding medication legislation                | Proposal was improved                     | • An earlier version of the bill would have prohibited physicians from compounding medications in their offices without being regulated as a pharmacy.  
• The final bill increases the authority of the Board of Pharmacy to regulate out-of-state compounding pharmacies to protect patient safety. |
**How does an issue become an MMA priority?**

The MMA's advocacy agenda is created by our physician members through their participation in committees, task forces, policy forums, listening sessions, member events, online discussions and the Annual Meeting. MMA policies serve as the foundation for our legislative, regulatory and administrative advocacy efforts during the legislative session and throughout the year.

To get involved in policy work, contact our legislative team or someone from our member relations team. To learn more about MMA policies and how you can participate, visit www.mnmed.org/Advocacy.

---

**MMA legislative team**

- **Dave Renner**
  - Director of State and Federal Legislation
  - EMAIL: drenner@mnmed.org
  - OFFICE: 612-362-3750
  - MOBILE: 612-518-3437

- **Eric Dick**
  - Manager of State Legislative Affairs
  - EMAIL: edick@mnmed.org
  - OFFICE: 612-362-3732
  - MOBILE: 612-747-3683

---

**MMA member relations team**

- **Kathleen Baumbach**
  - Manager of Member Outreach (Southern Twin Cities and Southeastern Minnesota)
  - EMAIL: kbaumbach@mnmed.org
  - OFFICE: 612-362-3729
  - MOBILE: 651-329-8160

- **Mandy Rubenstein**
  - Manager of Member Outreach (Northwest, Southwest and Central Minnesota)
  - EMAIL: mrubenstein@mnmed.org
  - OFFICE: 612-362-3740
  - MOBILE: 612-720-5757

- **Brian Strub**
  - Manager of Member Outreach (Northern Twin Cities and Northeast Minnesota)
  - EMAIL: bstrub@mnmed.org
  - OFFICE: 612-362-3745
  - MOBILE: 651-341-5692

- **Terry Ruane**
  - Director of Membership, Marketing and Communications
  - EMAIL: truane@mnmed.org
  - OFFICE: 612-362-3742
  - MOBILE: 952-738-1300

---

**Your membership at work!**

Even if you are not actively involved with the MMA, your membership dollars are. Membership funds help us advocate for pro-Minnesota physician legislation at the Capitol, in the courts and at state agencies. Thank you — your continued support is always needed and helpful.