

From: ACP Michigan Chapter chapter@acpmembership.org
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2024 ACP Leadership Day

The 2024 ACP Leadership Day in Washington D.C. was an educational and inspiring conference, emphasizing advocacy and collaboration in health policy. We started with a full day educational session that included a panel discussion with policy experts and inspiring talks by seasoned advocates, as well as a deep dive on our legislative asks. This training set us up to feel very prepared for our meetings on the Hill the following day.

Our Michigan delegation had the opportunity to meet with representatives and legislative assistants to discuss key pieces of legislation, emphasizing the ways these changes would enhance patient care and health care systems. During our meetings with legislators, we were able to discuss struggles internal medicine physicians are facing in Michigan and to advocate for three key pieces of legislation: the Safe Step Act, the Resident Physician Shortage Act, and the Physician Fee Schedule Update and Improvements Act. As a brief review, the Safe Step Act aims to establish a transparent and reasonable exception process for step therapy protocols while reducing administrative burdens on physicians. The Resident Physician Shortage Act addresses the physician workforce shortage by creating 2,000 new residency positions annually for the next seven years. The Physician Fee Schedule Update and Improvements Act proposes raising the threshold for budget-neutral payment cuts to physicians and tying these payments to inflation, helping to mitigate annual pay cuts for physicians.

We also took time out of our busy advocacy schedule to explore the vibrant city of D.C. and reflect on our nation's history. We visited landmarks such as the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and the Washington Monument, and even observed a Senate session in progress. Overall, ACP's Leadership Day 2024 was a lot of fun, very educational and inspiring, and a great way to get out and have the voices of Michigan's internal medicine community heard! We hope you can join us for Leadership Day 2025, April 28-29!





The Michigan Chapter Delegation enjoying their time at the U.S. Capitol.
L to R: Dr. Tudor Moldovan; Dr. Brittany Taylor; Dr. Bob Bloom, FACP; Madison Miller; Dr. Allison Ruff, MHPE, FACP; Dr. Sarah Hartley, MHPE, FACP; Dhruthi Reddy



U.S. Representative Debbie Dingell met with the Michigan Chapter Delegation.
L to R: Dr. Apoorv Tiwari; Dr. Brittany Taylor; Dr. Allison Ruff, MHPE, FACP; Dhruthi Reddy; U.S. Representative Debbie Dingell; Dr. Bob Bloom, FACP; Madison Miller; Dr. Sarah Hartley, MHPE, FACP; Dr. Tudor Moldovan

Spring 2024 Legislative Session Recap

After a strong start to the 2023-2024 legislative session, the legislature slowed down in 2024, likely due to a variety of factors including the House of Delegates special elections in April of 2024. MI-ACP focused on two core issues this past spring:

Prescription Drug Affordability Board

Although this legislation passed through the Michigan Senate in the fall of 2023, it has not advanced further in the Michigan House of Representatives. SB 483, 484, and 485 aim to establish a Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) in Michigan, which would authorize an independent, nonpartisan committee to evaluate

which would authorize an independent, nonpartisan committee to evaluate prescription drug costs and their impact, with the goal of setting upper limits on prescription drug prices in the state. To read more, please [click here](#).

Several other states, including Colorado and Maryland, have already implemented PDABs, and many others are considering similar legislation. Partnering with the Committee to Protect Health Care, MI-ACP has been advocating for the Michigan House to take up the bills and has participated in several press releases and legislative outreach activities. Given the upcoming elections, it is likely the House will not address the bills until the lame-duck session.

Scope of Practice

Senator Irwin (D-15) of Michigan recently introduced SB 279, which seeks to remove the requirement that nurse practitioners (NPs) work as part of a patient-centered, physician-led care team. Given ACP's stance on physicians leading care teams and concerns about increased healthcare costs and poorer health outcomes, MI-ACP, along with several other organizations across the state, voiced opposition to the bill. The bill received a hearing in March, where both sides presented their opinions. MI-ACP provided written testimony and expressed opposition to the legislation. No vote was taken during that hearing, and none has been scheduled yet. We continue to closely monitor this legislation due to our concerns about its impact on healthcare in our state, standing by the principle that physicians should lead patient care teams. For more information, [click here](#).

Advocacy Survey - We Want to Hear from You!

Your voice is crucial in our advocacy efforts. By taking a few minutes to complete our advocacy survey, you can directly influence the direction of our organization's efforts to champion the issues that matter most to you. Your feedback will help us better represent your interests and ensure that our advocacy work reflects the collective priorities of our members. Please take this opportunity to share your insights and help us advocate more effectively on your behalf. Responses are appreciated by Friday, September 20th.

Advocacy Survey

Interested in Getting More Involved?

Have an advocacy topic you're passionate about? Want to join the MI-ACP's Health and Public Policy Committee (HPPC)? Please contact the HPPC co-chairs Dr. Brittany Tayler (taylorbr@msu.edu) or Dr. Tudor Moldovan (moldov11@msu.edu) for more information.

Upcoming Events

- **September 24th, 12-1PM: MI-ACP and MDHHS Public Health Grand Rounds – Voting Access and Health Equity: Understanding Impacts, Challenges, and Strategies for Improvement Webinar**, Presented in Conjunction with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services - [Register Here](#)
- **September 25th at Noon: Board of Governors Resolutions to Chapter Due Date** - Please send to MI-ACP Governor, Dr. Sarah Hartley, sarahhartleyacp@gmail.com.
- **September 25th, 7-8PM: Michigan Chapter ACP's Health and Public Policy Committee Meeting** - If interested in attending, please reach out to MI-ACP Governor, Dr. Sarah Hartley, sarahhartleyacp@gmail.com.
- **October 24th-27th: Michigan Chapter ACP's Annual Scientific Meeting at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at Kalamazoo Center, Kalamazoo, Michigan** - [Click here](#) for more information

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