



Iowa Medical Society

Fact Sheet

- The Iowa Medical Society (IMS) was established in 1850 and is the largest and oldest statewide professional association for physicians, residents, and medical students, representing nearly 6,000 members. We work to advance the practice of medicine through advocacy, education, and engagement with physicians throughout Iowa to ensure the highest quality of care for the patients they serve.
- Our vision is to be the leading voice in medicine to make Iowa a premier destination for physicians to live, work, and serve their communities.
- 2025 marks 175 years as an organization—IMS was founded in Burlington, Iowa, where a group of 25 physicians gathered, spearheaded by the leadership of John F. Sanford, MD. This group shared a vision to create an organization that would unify the medical community, develop ethical standards and advance health care quality across the state.
- In 2023, we aggressively advocated for tort reform in Iowa and this landmark, historic legislation passed, which provides a cap on non-medical economic damages.
- IMS was the first to address the physician shortage crisis in Iowa. A working group of physicians, health care, and community leaders came together in late 2024 for [Operation I.O.W.A.](#) (Innovative Opportunities for Workforce Action) and developed a detailed, actionable roadmap for solving the physician shortage crisis.
- As the leading voice in medicine in Iowa, IMS convened healthcare leaders from across the state to dig deeper into how to recruit, retain, and inspire healthcare workers to keep their talent in Iowa with the [Healthcare Workforce Summit](#) in May of this year.

- With advocacy as job-one for our members, IMS championed prior authorization legislation this session; the new law ensures patients receive timely access to care by requiring health insurance carriers to respond quickly to prior authorization requests
- Rural physician workforce legislation was recommended in Operation I.O.W.A. and championed by the Governor this session. The new law will bolster the physician workforce and sets Iowa apart from all other states in the country by taking bold action to meaningfully address Iowa's physician shortage.

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