



## Initial 2022 Legislative Priorities

Issue	Description
<b>Medical Liability Reform</b>	IMS will continue to push for action to curb the alarming trend of trial attorneys exploiting Iowa's medical liability system and driving up record noneconomic damage awards. Building upon the progress made in the last two years, IMS will work continue to lead a large coalition of stakeholders pushing to enact a hard cap on noneconomic damages and restore balance to Iowa's medical liability system.
<b>Combatting Vaccine Hesitancy</b>	IMS will oppose efforts to weaken Iowa's current vaccine statutes, to increase vaccine hesitancy, or to limit practices' ability to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Vaccine hesitancy – amongst all vaccines, including the new COVID-19 vaccines – has grown at an alarming rate in recent years. This has resulted in a record number of proposals that would reverse our state's long tradition of strong vaccination rates and further hamper our ability to combat the pandemic.
<b>Expanding Physician Workforce</b>	IMS will continue to partner with allied physician organizations to support increased funding for the Rural Physician Loan Repayment Program that directly supports efforts to recruit more physicians to shortage areas. IMS will also support policy efforts to implement the Iowa Rural Healthcare Workforce Strategic Action Plan.
<b>Protecting Safe Medical Care</b>	IMS will continue to lead the House of Medicine in educating legislators on the implications of proposed scope of practice expansions, work to halt any measures that threaten patient safety, and support efforts to better clarify the patient awareness of providers' training.
<b>Reducing Administrative Burden</b>	IMS will support policy measures that reduce administrative burden and allow clinical teams to devote more of their time to direct patient care rather than administrative work associated with payers' authorization and payment criteria.
<b>Strengthening Medicaid</b>	IMS will work to educate policymakers about the implications of Medicaid's stagnant physician rates, which are effectively unchanged from rates in the year 2000. We will seek to work with the Department of Human Services and interested stakeholder to formulate a plan for increasing reimbursement rates.

***Approved by the IMS Board of Directors  
on September 17, 2021***

***Core Purpose***

*To assure the highest quality health care in Iowa through our role as physician and patient advocate.*