

Missouri Society of Pathologists

A PROFESSIONAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OF LABORATORY PHYSICIANS



Subject: MSMA Council Meeting Notes

Dear Colleagues,

It was my honor to attend the recent Missouri State Medical Association (MSMA) Council meeting in Jefferson City on July 16-17, 2022. A large number of regulatory issues that affect the practice of pathology as state-level and it is important for pathologists to support and have a table at MSMA Council. The MSMA represents the interests of all Missouri physicians and ensures our voice is heard in the state legislature.

Here are some relevant notes/items from the meeting:

1. I had introduced a resolution on behalf of private practices in rural Missouri that are struggling with the onerous process of hiring international medical graduates to their practices. The resolution passed and will go to the AMA for further action
2. Another resolution protecting physicians against retaliatory actions for reporting safety concerns to appropriate authorities was passed. This will help expand the "whistleblower" protections to Missouri physicians
3. Another interesting resolution was to recommend reclassification of colonoscopies following a positive fecal occult blood screening test from diagnostic (patient has to pay co-insurance and deductible) to "completion of screening" (covered as preventative care). Apparently, this is based on CMS regulations
4. A new 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is now active and offers counseling to anyone experiencing substance abuse or mental health crisis
5. On June 24, 2022, the US Supreme Court overturned its 1973 decision on *Roe v. Wade*, following which the Missouri trigger law passed in 2019 is now in effect. This state law bans abortion in Missouri with exceptions for "medical emergency". Many physicians are concerned as this is not well defined and infringes upon the sanctity of the patient physician relationship and on the autonomy of the practice of medicine. A lion's share of the meeting was spent discussing and creating a position statement by MSMA Council. The statement is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/MSMApstriggerlaw>
6. The MSMA monitors over 2000 bills in the state legislature to ensure the voice of physicians is heard. A copy of their legislative report is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/2022MSMAreview>

In closing, I would encourage you to join forces with the MSMA and make our voice stronger. There is a summer special to join for only \$150 at www.msma.org

Best Regards,

Chakshu Gupta, MD
President, Missouri Society of Pathologists

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