During the 2022-2023 legislative session, the Medical Society of New Jersey secured major victories across key legislative areas. Here’s a selection of the wins your advocacy support helped us achieve:

**Prior Authorization Reform**

In January 2024, MSNJ’s top priority bill was signed into law. This legislation makes big improvements to existing law on prior authorization, covering all state-regulated plans and millions of New Jersey patients.

Under existing law, insurer decisions are made within 15 days. Under our new law, urgent medication requests must be decided in 24 hours and non-urgent ones within 72 hours, with the treating physician determining urgency. Diagnostics and procedures also see faster decision times: 72 hours at most if urgent and nine days if non-urgent. Missed deadlines mean automatically approved requests, and prior authorizations for chronic conditions or multiple treatments (e.g., chemotherapy) will remain valid for at least six months. Appeal denials now must be made by a physician specialist – not a call-center employee – and a true peer-to-peer with an in-specialty physician is now your right on appeal. New reporting mandates will expose what insurers used to keep secret.

**Promoting Team-Based Care**

Each year, some non-physician clinicians seek scope expansions and independent practice despite lacking sufficient education and training to keep patients safe. This year, MSNJ stopped three bills: one that dangerously expands optometrists’ scope of practice to include laser surgery; one permitting independent practice by midwives; and one allowing advanced practice nurses to treat patients without any link to a physician at all.

**Virtual Credit Card Payment Reform**

MSNJ also battled insurers over virtual credit cards, which insurance companies use to unfairly pass administrative costs on to physicians when issuing payments. The law we drafted and advanced will rein in the process of insurers passing four-or-more percent transaction costs on to physicians.

**Telemedicine Pay Parity**

In December 2023, the Governor signed a MSNJ priority bill extending telemedicine pay parity requirements. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, insurers have been required to reimburse telemedicine visits at the same rate as in-person visits, but this requirement was set to expire. MSNJ’s law extends the requirement through 2024, and we are now gearing up to battle the insurance industry for a permanent extension.

**Developing Legislative Relationships**

In the 2023 elections, two new physician candidates – both of whom had our unwavering support – won their contests, bringing the number of physicians in the legislature from one to three, the highest number in decades. We are excited to work in 2024 and beyond with John Azzariti, MD, and Margie Donlon, MD, in the Assembly, and we continue to support our close friend Herb Conaway, MD, Assembly Health Committee Chair.