



# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, September 18, 2025

5:30 – 8:30 pm

The Grand Oak Villa, Watertown



# Advisors

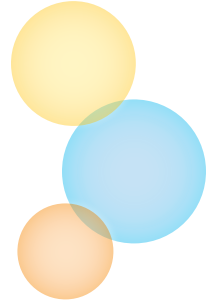
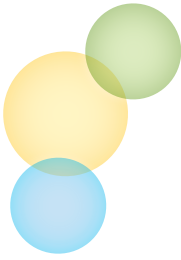
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# 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

## AGENDA

- 5:30 pm Social Hour and Cocktail Reception Honoring Incoming President Mariam Hakim-Zargar, MD
- 6:30 pm Buffet Dinner
- 7:00 pm Business Meeting  
Farewell – Khuram Ghumman, MD  
Inauguration – Mariam Hakim-Zargar, MD  
Awards Presentation
- 7:30 pm Advocacy in Action  
Presentation by Mike Johnson, Sullivan & LeShane

## *CSMS Proudly Presents the Recipients of the* 2025 Medical Student Advocacy Award

### **Jessica MacIntyre**

Jessica is a fourth-year medical student at the UConn School of Medicine applying into neurology. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Neuroscience and her Master of Science in Surgical Neurophysiology from UConn. Her career in advocacy began during her first year of medical school and she now serves as an AMA Medical Student Section Regional Delegate and as Membership Chair for the CSMS Youth Physicians Engagement Committee. She is dedicated to advancing equity in medicine and looks forward to her future career as a physician advocate committed to serving underserved communities.

### **Elizabeth O'Brien**

Ellie is a second-year medical student at the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University. She is originally from Colorado, where she received her BA in Neuroscience with a minor in Leadership from the University of Colorado. Her professional interests include research on patient shared decision making and information transparency, as well as community leadership and advocacy within the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She is a lover of all outdoor activities and spends much of her free time cooking and reading.

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## **Mariam Hakim-Zargar, MD**

Dr. Mariam Hakim-Zargar is an orthopaedic surgeon in private practice in Torrington, Connecticut, where she leads the New England Orthopaedic Center. She earned her undergraduate degree in chemistry from Northwestern University, went on to receive both a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology and Biostatistics and a Master of Arts in Molecular Biology from Boston University, earned her medical degree from the University of Louisville School of Medicine and did her residency at the University of Connecticut Orthopaedic Residency Program. She then completed a Foot and Ankle fellowship at the University of Connecticut Health Center with Dr. Michael Aronow.

In addition to her busy clinical practice, Dr. Hakim-Zargar has dedicated much of her career to advocacy and leadership in medicine. She has been actively involved with the Connecticut State Medical Society for many years in a number of leadership roles.

She is a past president of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society. Nationally, she has served in leadership roles with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society, and she is an Alternate Delegate to the American Medical Association, where she advocates on issues affecting physicians and patients.

In Connecticut, she has also advised the legislature on physician workforce and scope of practice issues, representing physicians and patients on critical committees addressing recruitment, retention, and patient safety.

Beyond her professional commitments, Dr. Hakim-Zargar is the proud mom of two, and she serves as the assistant scoutmaster of an all-girl Boy Scout troop in Simsbury. An avid outdoorswoman, she enjoys hiking, camping, and adventure travel. Most recently, she successfully accomplished her goal of summiting Mount Kilimanjaro.

# 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

This session showed the impact of physician advocacy:  
Defeating harmful proposals, advancing important reforms,  
and staying prepared for the fights ahead.

## **SUCCESSFULLY DEFEATED: HB 687I – An Act Limiting Out-of-Network Healthcare Costs**

Would have capped out-of-network charges for inpatient and outpatient hospital services at 240% of the Medicare fee schedule.

## **SUCCESSFULLY DEFEATED: SB 1325 – An Act Permitting Naturopathic Physicians to Prescribe and Administer B12**

Would have expanded the scope of practice for naturopathic physicians.

## **SUCCESSFULLY DEFEATED: HB 6873 – An Act Strengthening the Review of Healthcare Entity Transactions**

Would have required review of certain physician consolidation and private equity investments\*.

\*Ongoing discussion on the concepts contained in this bill will focus on protecting patients and oversight/regulation of predatory private equity, while preserving physician autonomy and practice decisions.

## **PASSED: HB 7287 (PA 25-168) – An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2027 and Making Appropriations Therefor, and Provisions Related to Revenue and Other Items Implementing the State Budget**

Includes Medicaid rate increases of \$15.4 million in FY 2026 and \$45 million in FY 2027\*.

\* Specific allocations to physicians are still to be determined.

## **PASSED: SB10 (PA 25-94) – An Act Concerning Health Insurance and Patient Protection**

- **Step Therapy Restrictions:** Bars health insurers from requiring step therapy for prescription drugs used to treat multiple sclerosis or rheumatoid arthritis; makes permanent the existing prohibition on step therapy for medications treating schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, and bipolar disorder by removing the sunset date.
- **Reimbursement for General Anesthesia:** Prohibits certain health insurance policies from imposing unilateral arbitrary limitations on reimbursement for general anesthesia.
- **Mental Health Parity Compliance:** Requires health carriers to annually certify that their practices comply with mental health and substance use disorder parity laws; authorizes the insurance commissioner to impose civil penalties and late fees on carriers who fail to comply with mental health parity requirements.

# 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

## **PASSED: SB 1450 (PA 25-162) – An Act Concerning Recruitment and Retention of the Healthcare Workforce**

Requires the Department of Public Health (DPH) to create, within available appropriations, a loan reimbursement program for health care providers, with some of the awards targeted to primary care providers and those employed in rural communities or at federally qualified health centers (FQHCs)\*.

\*Primary care providers include physicians, but it is to be determined what additional medical providers are included in this language.

## **PASSED: HB 6978 (PA 25-96) – An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Various Revisions to the Public Health Statutes**

- Creates a Retired Physician License; Starting January 1, 2026, retired physicians can renew their licenses at a reduced fee: 10% of the standard fee or \$95, whichever is greater.
- Physicians with licenses voided due to nonrenewal can apply for reinstatement at the same reduced fee, subject to similar regulations.

**THIS  
SESSION  
BY THE  
NUMBERS:**

**4000+**  
bills  
introduced

**100+**  
responses to  
CSMS Voter Voice  
Campaigns

**203**  
bills passed  
by the  
legislature

**200+**  
bills tracked  
that impact  
medicine

**30+**  
legislative  
testimonies  
submitted  
by CSMS

***Thank you to all of our physician advocates!***

CSMS physicians were involved in every aspect of advocating for our physicians and their patients, including meeting with legislators and stakeholders, writing, reviewing, and/or delivering testimony, penning op-eds, and participating in media interviews. Your contributions to CSMS' advocacy efforts cannot be overstated. Thank you!



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