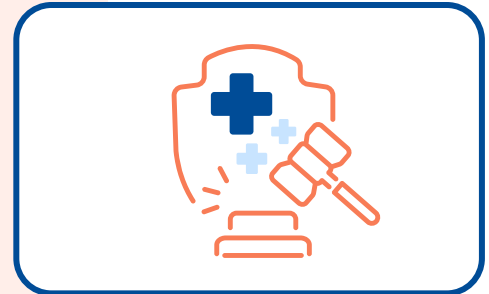


Support Healthcare Liability Reform

GHA supports efforts to modernize Georgia’s healthcare liability laws, which negatively impact patient care and providers’ abilities to practice. Extremely high jury awards and settlements, leading to higher insurance premiums and limiting insurance access, have led to an increased cost of care and exacerbated the physician shortage.

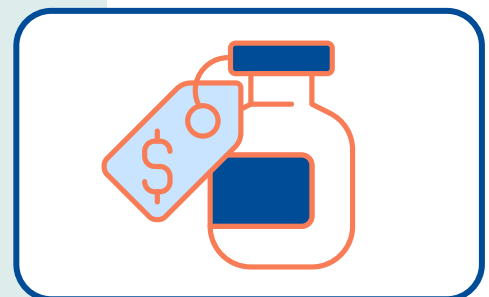


Improve Access to Behavioral Health Resources

GHA supports ensuring greater access to safe, high-quality behavioral health care by allowing freestanding psychiatric hospitals to participate in their own hospital provider payment program.

Preserve Access to 340B Community Pharmacies

GHA supports underserved communities by working to ensure the 340B drug pricing program functions as designed, providing hospitals and contract pharmacies access to discounted prescription drugs. This allows hospitals to invest those savings back into local healthcare needs.



Increase Long-Term Viability of Rural Hospitals

GHA supports funding and reimbursement models that enhance access to care and recognize the unique healthcare and financial demands of rural communities.

Additional Priorities:



Access to Quality Care

Support policies that expand affordable coverage options and reduce the uninsured rate. GHA supports adequate managed care networks and improving healthcare access for all Georgians.



Certificate of Need

Preserve Georgia's 2024 updates to the Certificate of Need (CON) program to ensure continued access to comprehensive and affordable care for all patients, while safeguarding essential and vulnerable services that are crucial to the health and well-being of our communities.



EMS Funding

Support efforts to prioritize funding and support for all areas of medical and trauma response, including emergency medical services and hospital emergency preparedness.



Financial Stability

Support state and federal funding programs designed to increase financial stability by supporting hospitals and healthcare providers, the maintenance and growth of supplemental Medicaid payments, and sufficient state matching funds for DSH payments to hospitals. GHA supports tax credits and state budget allocations such as the Rural Hospital Tax Credit, trauma center designations, and others.



Insurer Accountability

Support policies that decrease inappropriate claim denials and make it easier for patients to use their health insurance. GHA opposes reductions in hospital reimbursements, including those resulting from site-neutral payment policies or any proposals that implement government rate-setting in the private healthcare market.



Licensure

Advocate for a streamlined licensure process that enables qualified providers to swiftly enter the workforce and support initiatives aimed at addressing the backlog of licensure applications for healthcare providers.



Scope of Practice

Support policies that allow licensed healthcare professionals to practice to the full extent of their training and experience, to ensure accessible and appropriate access to care in all areas of the state, especially medically underserved areas.



Workforce

Support initiatives to increase the number of qualified healthcare workers in Georgia to address the critical workforce shortage. GHA advocates for sufficient funding for programs that enhance medical education and clinician recruitment and retention. GHA opposes mandated staffing ratios that impact a hospital's ability to provide quality, life-saving care. GHA supports legislation to protect and provide safety measures for hospital employees serving the community.