Public Policy: Advocacy Efforts and Top Accomplishments 2020

Member Engagement

✓ Engaged 350 members throughout the course of the year
✓ Generated 38 letters to both Congress and the Administration
✓ Focused on member education during COVID-19, with CHIME holding 22 webinars on different policy topics drawing on average 100 attendees per webinar
✓ Led multiple workgroups over the span of more than 10 calls with CHIME members and leaders from policy steering committee on topics including electronic prescribing, interoperability and AI.

Connected Care

✓ Secured multiple extensions for numerous telehealth flexibilities under the pandemic through extensions of the public health emergency (PHE) during which these policies remain active
✓ Long-standing support of Federal Communication Commission’s (FCC) telehealth effort resulted in $550 million in funding and direct awards to multiple CHIME member organizations

Cybersecurity

✓ Following years of advocacy, H.R. 7898 was passed by Congress giving credit to providers who use cybersecurity best practices and requiring the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) to reduce the length of audits
✓ AEHIS member selected as Chair of FCC’s cyber hospital robocall working group
✓ Consulted by Senate Homeland Security Committee on cyber funding resulting in CHIME’s statement being included in the record
✓ Led and obtained long-sought after policy of allowing cybersecurity donations – including some hardware – under the final Stark and Antikickback rules
✓ Secured exclusive briefing from government security leaders on imminent cyber-attacks targeting healthcare.

Patient ID

✓ Secured removal by House of Representatives of longstanding ban in Appropriations bill that prohibits federal spending on a national patient ID standard for the second year in a row.
✓ Engaged in member grassroots effort and co-founded new coalition to remove patient ID ban
✓ Conducted “Virtual Hill Briefing” featuring Rep. Bill Foster with 180+ people in attendance
✓ CHIME testified before ONC Working Group on Patient Identification and Matching & secured Rep. Foster as a witness

Privacy

✓ CHIME was the only healthcare provider organization consulted on bi-cameral privacy legislation

Interoperability

✓ Secured additional information blocking exceptions and scaled down definition of electronic health information (EHI) intended to ease provider burden in final ONC and CMS rules
✓ Requested and were granted extended compliance deadlines for both CMS and ONC interoperability rules

Opioids

✓ Historic passage of Jessie’s Law aligning 42 CFR Part 2 consent policies with those of HIPAA under CARES Act