

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 212
(A-24)

Introduced by: Organized Medical Staff Section

Subject: Advocacy Education Towards a Sustainable Medical Care System

Referred to: Reference Committee B

1 Whereas, extensive AMA policy and actions address the education of medical students and
2 physicians on advocacy techniques and their involvement in AMA advocacy efforts; and
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4 Whereas, our AMA believes that “better-informed and more active citizens will result in better
5 legislators, better government, and better health care” (AMA Policy G-640.020); and
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7 Whereas, the AMA currently facilitates some patient education and engagement in advocacy
8 efforts via is Patient Action Network (PAN); and
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10 Whereas, greater involvement of the public in AMA advocacy efforts potentially could make the
11 AMA more effective in its advocacy on behalf of patients and the profession; and
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13 Whereas, any attempt to engage the public must consider the potential difficulties that can arise
14 from blending the perspectives of physicians and patients; therefore be it
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16 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association explore innovative opportunities for
17 engaging the public in advocacy on behalf of an improved healthcare environment. (Directive to
18 Take Action)
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Fiscal Note: Modest - between \$1,000 - \$5,000

Received: 4/17/2024

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Medical Student, Resident and Fellow Legislative Awareness H-295.953

1. The AMA strongly encourages the state medical associations to work in conjunction with medical schools to implement programs to educate medical students concerning legislative issues facing physicians and medical students.

2. Our AMA will advocate that political science classes which facilitate understanding of the legislative process be offered as an elective option in the medical school curriculum.

3. Our AMA will establish health policy and advocacy elective rotations based in Washington, DC for medical students, residents, and fellows.

4. Our AMA will support and encourage institutional, state, and specialty organizations to offer health policy and advocacy opportunities for medical students, residents, and fellows.

Improving Medical Student, Resident/Fellow and Academic Physician Engagement in Organized Medicine and Legislative Advocacy G-615.103

Our AMA will: (1) study the participation of academic and teaching physicians, residents, fellows, and medical students in organized medicine and legislative advocacy; (2) study the participation of community-based faculty members of medical schools and graduate medical education programs in organized medicine and legislative advocacy; (3) identify successful, innovative and best practices to engage academic physicians (including community-based physicians), residents/fellows, and medical students in organized medicine and legislative advocacy; and (4) study mechanisms to mitigate costs incurred by medical students, residents and fellows who participate at national, in person AMA conferences.

Political Action Committees and Contributions G-640.020

Our AMA: (1) believes that better-informed and more active citizens will result in better legislators, better government, and better health care; (2) encourages AMA members to participate personally in the campaign of their choice and strongly supports physician/family leadership in the campaign process; (3) opposes legislative initiatives that improperly limit individual and collective participation in the democratic process; (4) supports AMPAC's policy to adhere to a no Rigid Litmus Test policy in its assessment and support of political candidates; (5) encourages AMPAC to continue to consider the legislative agenda of our AMA and the recommendations of state medical PACs in its decisions; (6) urges members of the House to reaffirm their commitment to the growth of AMPAC and the state medical PACs; (7) will continue to work through its constituent societies to achieve a 100 percent rate of contribution to AMPAC by members; (8) calls upon all candidates for public office to refuse contributions from tobacco companies and their subsidiaries; and (9) calls upon all candidates for public office to refuse contributions from any organization that opposes evidence-based public health measures to reduce firearm violence.

Physician Health Policy Opportunity G-640.035

Our AMA encourages and supports efforts to educate interested medical students, residents, fellows, and practicing physicians about health policy and assist them in starting or transitioning to careers that involve health policy.

Our AMA: (a) recognizes, encourages, and supports the primary health policy training found in the physician specialties of Public Health / General Preventive Medicine, Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and Aerospace Medicine; (b) will significantly increase its collaborative efforts with the National Academy of Medicine (NAM) to make physicians aware of existing health policy training opportunities and help them to apply for and participate in them; (c) will engage with alumni of health policy training programs and joint degree programs and provide opportunities for them to share their health policy experiences with medical students, residents, fellows, and practicing physicians; (d) will include health policy content in its educational resources for members; (e) will work with the Office of the U.S. Surgeon General to disseminate information to medical students, residents, fellows, and practicing physicians about opportunities to join the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service; and (f) will consider options for funding a 1-year educational training program for practicing physicians who wish to transition from clinical practice to employment within the health policy sector.