



**RESOLUTION**  
**West Virginia State Medical Association**  
**2010 Annual Meeting**  
**Health System Reform**

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WHEREAS, For the past year President Barack Obama, the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate have made reforming our nation's health care system their top domestic policy initiative;

WHEREAS, throughout this process, physicians have been outspoken in their recognition that maintaining the status quo is unacceptable and consistently advocated for reforms based on the fundamental principles of pluralism, freedom of choice, freedom of physician practice and universal access;

WHEREAS, physicians support health system reform that expands health insurance coverage; empowers patient and physician decision making; institutes meaningful market reforms; makes substantial investments in quality; promotes prevention and wellness initiatives; and advances real, meaningful medical liability reform;

WHEREAS, the WVSMA is on record with each member of our state's congressional delegation concerning those elements of the reform legislation being considered that are supported by West Virginia physicians as well those provisions of the bills that do not meet our basic principles of reform and therefore are opposed;

WHEREAS, the WVSMA has also advocated that there must be a full SGR repeal that replaces the looming 21.2 percent payment cut with a permanent fix to the funding formula and the WVSMA has clearly advocated that our state's successful implementation of medical liability reform should be used as a model for success and included in the national health system reform legislation;

WHEREAS, two bills have been passed by the US Congress (one by the House and the other by the Senate) and are now awaiting a final decision by Congress through a reconciliation of the differences between the two houses and then a final vote;

WHEREAS, despite the best efforts of many physician advocacy organizations, both bills still contain key provisions that are contrary to the interests of physicians and the patients they care for each and every day;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the West Virginia State Medical Association continue to advocate support for legislation that protects the sacred relationship between patients and their physicians in making healthcare decisions without interference; promote affordable health insurance coverage for all through a choice of plans that

guarantees portability and eliminates denials for pre-existing conditions; and encourages greater personal responsibility for prevention and wellness on the part of all citizens;

RESOLVED, that the West Virginia State Medical Association express its belief and serious concern that the health system reform bills approved by the US House or US Senate awaiting final reconciliation before Congress in January, 2010, as designed are financially unsustainable because they expand Medicaid eligibility and “back-load” new spending with government levied new user fees and new taxes to cover expanded coverage and benefits;

RESOLVED, that the West Virginia State Medical Association oppose legislation that impose punitive provisions that target government calculated resource use outliers;

RESOLVED, that the West Virginia State Medical Association oppose legislation that grants authority to governmental bureaucracies to make significant future Medicare payment cuts through the new CMS Innovation Center and the new Independent Medicare Commission;

RESOLVED, that the WVSMA opposes restrictions that curtail physician-owned hospitals;

RESOLVED, that any health care reform legislation is incomplete without substantive medical liability reform; and,

RESOLVED, that the House of Delegates supports the efforts and authority of the West Virginia State Medical Association’s Executive Committee and Council in expressing the position of the West Virginia State Medical Association, based upon our principles of reform on the health system reform actions being taken by Congress and the President.