



## Young Physicians Section Delegate's Report from the 2015 Interim Meeting

The Young Physicians Section (YPS) of the AMA was an active and integral part of the AMA House of Delegates (HOD) meeting in Atlanta, Georgia. The preliminary handbook review committee recommendations were made available to members of the YPS assembly prior to the meeting. This process affords each YPS assembly member an opportunity to review the proffered YPS position on each resolution prior to coming to the Assembly. Our vigorous debate on these issues is key to developing the YPS position on each resolution and report. YPS delegates then offered testimony in all of the HOD reference committees based on the Assembly's direction to actively support or oppose relevant reports and resolutions. Our team approach allows more young physicians to speak on behalf of the YPS in front of the reference committees, and it enables our members to bring YPS issues to their state and specialty caucuses. An action document with talking points for all YPS active positions was created for members to use throughout the meeting. Without the assistance of members of our Assembly, the Delegate and Alternate Delegate would have been unable to speak to all of these items. Thank you to all who participated, we simply could not do it without you.

In our YPS Reference Committee we considered two reports and two resolutions:

- *Report A: Governing Council Activities/Action Plan Update*  
Report A is a compilation of activities accomplished by the AMA-YPS since the 2015 Annual Meeting. Updates on AMA-YPS objectives are organized under five main categories: focus; communications; leadership development; membership; and participation.
- *Report B: AMA Advocacy Efforts*  
Report B describes AMA and AMA-YPS advocacy efforts undertaken since the 2014 Interim Meeting.
- *Late Resolution 2: Clarification of Medical Necessity for Treatment of Gender Dysphoria*  
Late Resolution 2 asks that our AMA recognize that medical and surgical treatments for gender dysphoria, as determined by shared decision making between the patient and physician, are medically necessary as outlined by generally accepted standards of medical and surgical practice. Further, this resolution asks that our AMA advocate for federal, state, and local policies to provide medically necessary care for gender dysphoria. This resolution was passed by the YPS assembly and will be submitted at the 2016 AMA Annual Meeting.
- *Late Resolution 3: Infertility Benefits for Wounded Warriors*  
Late Resolution 3 asks that our AMA support lifting the Congressional ban on the Department of Veterans' Affairs from covering in vitro fertilization (IVF) costs. In addition, this resolution ask our AMA to work with the American Society for Reproductive Medicine and other interested organizations to encourage lifting the Congressional ban on the Department of Veterans' Affairs from covering IVF costs. Further, this resolution requested immediate consideration at the 2015 Interim Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates (HOD). This resolution was considered as Resolution 223, which was subsequently referred.

The **final actions** of the YPS items of business may be found in the enclosed document.

As directed by the YPS Assembly, the section also testified on other important items of business, including:

### Reference Committee on Constitution and Bylaws

- BOT Report 9: Advance Directives During Pregnancy (Resolution 1-I-14) (Active Support, **adopted as amended**)
- CEJA Report 1: Ethical Practice in Telemedicine (Active Support, **referred**)
- Resolution 6: IOM "Dying in America" Report (Active Oppose, **referred for report back at A-16**)

Reference Committee B: Legislative Advocacy

- Resolution 205: Inclusion of Health Insurers' Financial Support to Graduate Medical Education in the Medical Loss Ratio (Active Oppose with Referral, **not adopted**)
- Resolution 219: EHR Interoperability (Active Support, **Substitute Resolution 212 adopted**)
- Resolution 220: Defund Planned Parenthood (Active Oppose; **tabled**)
- Resolution 223: Infertility Benefits for Wounded Warriors (Active Support; **referred**)
- Resolution 224: Support for Title X Funding (Active support; **adopted as amended**)

Reference Committee F: AMA Finance and Governance

- CLRPD Report 1: Best Practices and Successful Efforts to Increase Diversity, by Age, of AMA Delegates and Alternate Delegates (Active Support, **adopted**)

Reference Committee J: Advocacy related to medical service, medical practice, insurance and related topics

- CMS Report 5: Physician Employment Trends and Principles (Active Support, **adopted as amended**)
- Resolution 801: Health Care While Incarcerated (Active Support, **adopted as amended**)
- Resolution 810: Provider Exclusion, Decreased Patient Access and Reduced Provider Availability (Active Support; **reaffirmed**)
- Resolution 812: Preserving Physician/Patient Relationships During Hospitalizations (Active Support with Amendment, **adopted**)
- Resolution 813: Removing Financial Barriers to Participation in Clinical Trials for Medicare Beneficiaries (Active Oppose, **referred for decision with a request for an informational report back to the House of Delegates**)
- Resolution 814: Addressing the Rising Price of Prescription Drugs (Active Support, **CMS Report 2 adopted as amended in lieu of Resolution 814**)
- Resolution 815: Telemedicine (Active Oppose, **Policy H-480.946 reaffirmed in lieu of Resolution 815**)
- Resolution 817: High and Escalating Prescription Drug Prices (Active Support, **CMS Report 2 adopted as amended in lieu of Resolution 817**)

Reference Committee K: Advocacy related to medical education, science and public health and related topics

- CME Report 2: Reconciliation of Maintenance of Certification, Osteopathic Continuous Certification and Maintenance of Licensure Policies (Active Oppose with Referral, **adopted**)
- CSAPH Report 1: Non-medical Exemptions to Immunization (Active Support, **adopted as amended in lieu of Resolution 904**)
- Resolution 903: Maintenance of Certification (Active Oppose, **referred**)
- Resolution 907: Maximizing Patient Outcomes Through Public Access to All Past, Present and Future Clinical Trials (Active Support with Referral of Resolved #2, **first, third and fourth Resolves of Resolution 907 adopted as amended, second Resolve referred for decision, and Policies H-460.912 and D-460.970 reaffirmed**)
- Resolution 908: Novel Mechanism to Reduce Medical Student Debt (Active Support, **reaffirmed**)
- Resolution 917: Equity in Graduate Medical Education Funding (Active Support, **adopted**)
- Resolution 922: Marijuana Point of Sale Warning (Active Support, **adopted as amended with a change in title – Cannabis Warnings for Pregnant and Breastfeeding Women**)
- Resolution 924: Alternative Pathways to Board Recertification (Active Oppose, **referred for report at A-16**)
- Resolution 925: National Board of Physicians and Surgeons' (NBPAS) Recertification (Active Oppose, **referred for report at A-16**)

Complete final actions on each of these can be found on the AMA HOD website at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/sub/meeting/reportsresolutions.html>.

As you can see, as a section we are very successful advocates, the YPS testified on 25 items of business and the HOD was aligned with the YPS positions on most of the reports and resolutions. Out of our 25

active items of business, our only real defeat was the passage of CME Report 2. CME Report 2 was considered a consolidation of existing MOC/MOL policy and therefore not allowed to be amended on the floor of the HOD. Your Alternate Delegate and I will be working on determining what action can be taken by the YPS at the Annual meeting in order to attempt to achieve the goals set forward by the YPS. Specifically, we will be working to ensure that the new principles of MOC are well defined by the AMA.

For future meetings, I would like to personally encourage everyone to stay for as much of the HOD meeting as possible. Your testimony and influence in your states, specialty societies, caucuses, sections, and councils are an essential part of achieving our objectives in the HOD, multiplying the voice of young physicians in our AMA. By staying for the HOD, you play an integral part in making sure young physicians' needs are heard and considered in every decision the AMA makes.

In addition, I would like to thank everyone for participating in the HOD handbook review process, particularly if you volunteered for a handbook review committee. This important process lays the groundwork for our positions and makes sure that every issue is looked at for YPS relevance. I hope that everyone will consider volunteering some of your valuable time to this important YPS function. Most importantly, our positions as a Section are an important part of ensuring that AMA policy remains relevant to young physicians.

If you have any questions on the actions of the YPS or would like to become more involved in the YPS policy process, please do not hesitate to contact me at [hilaryfair@gmail.com](mailto:hilaryfair@gmail.com) to find out more.

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AMA-YPS Delegate