



Young Physicians Section Delegate's Report from the 2016 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 Orlando. 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 important 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, your 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, one emergency resolution was considered:

Emergency Resolution 1: Emergency Post-Election Support for Principles of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Emergency Resolution 1 asked the AMA to make a public statement that any health care reform legislation considered by Congress ensures continued improvement in patient access to care and patient health insurance coverage by maintaining:

- 1) Guaranteed insurability, including those with pre-existing conditions, without medical underwriting;
- 2) Income-dependent tax credits to subsidize private health insurance for eligible patients;
- 3) Federal funding for the expansion of Medicaid to 138% of the federal poverty level in states willing to accept expansion, as per current AMA policy (D-290.979);
- 4) Maintaining dependents on family insurance plans until the age of 26;
- 5) Coverage for preventive health services; and
- 6) Medical loss ratios set at no less than 85% to protect patients from excessive insurance costs.

Further, this resolution requested immediate consideration at the 2016 Interim Meeting of the AMA HOD. This resolution was considered as Resolution 223. It was considered along with multiple similar resolutions (205, 209, 224, and 226). An alternate but similar resolution was passed in lieu of resolution 223.

As directed by the YPS Assembly, the section also testified on the following items of business. The YPS position is listed parenthetically and the final House action in bold.

Reference Committee on Constitution and Bylaws

- Resolution 005: No Compromise on Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Policy (Active Support Resolved 1/ Active Oppose Resolveds 2-5, **Referred**)
- Resolution 006: Effective Peer Review (Active Support, **Adopted as Amended**)
- Resolution 007: Fair Process for Employed Physicians (Active Support, **Adopted as Amended**)

Reference Committee B: Legislation

- Resolution 201: Removing Restrictions on Federal Funding for Firearm Violence Research (Active Support, **Adopted**)
- Resolution 202: Inclusion of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Information in Electronic Health Records (Active Support with Amendment, **Resolution 212 adopted as amended in lieu of Resolution 202**)

- Resolution 209: Affordable Care Act Revisit (Active Support with Amendment/Delete Resolved 1, **Alternate Resolution, Protecting Patient Access to Health Insurance Coverage, Physicians, and Quality Health Care, adopted in lieu of Resolutions 205, 209, 223, 224, and 226**)

Of note, Resolution 223 was authored by the AMA-YPS. Alternate Resolution, Protecting Patient Access to Health Insurance Coverage, Physicians, and Quality Health Care, was adopted and includes the following Resolved clauses:

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association actively engage the new Administration and Congress in discussions about the future of health care reform, in collaboration with state and specialty medical societies, emphasizing our AMA's extensive body of policy on health system reform; and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA craft a strong public statement for immediate and broad release, articulating the priorities and firm commitment to our current AMA policies and our dedication in the development of comprehensive health care reform that continues and improves access to care for all patients; and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA Board of Trustees report back to our AMA House of Delegates at the Annual 2017 Meeting (A-17).

- Resolution 212: Promoting Inclusive Gender, Sex, and Sexual Orientation Options on Medical Documentation (Active Support, **Adopted as Amended**)
- Resolution 214: Firearm-Related Injury and Death: Adopt a Call to Action (Active Support with amendment, **Adopted**)
- Resolution 219: Protect Individualized Compounding in Physicians' Offices as Practice of Medicine (Active Support, **Alternate Resolution adopted as amended in lieu of Resolution 219**)

Reference Committee C: Medical Education

- Resolution 302: Protecting the Rights of Breastfeeding Residents and Fellows (Active Support, **Adopted as Amended with a change in title to read "Protecting Trainees' Breast-Feeding Rights"**)
- Resolution 307: Inappropriate Uses of Maintenance of Certification [Active Support, **Alternate Resolution adopted in lieu of Resolutions 307 and 311**;
- Resolution 310: Maintenance of Certification and Insurance Plan Participation (Active Support, **Adopted**)
- Resolution 311: Prevent Maintenance of Certification Licensure and Hospital Privileging Requirements (Active Support, **Alternate resolution adopted in lieu of Resolutions 307 and 311**)
- Resolution 312: Eliminating the Tax Liability for Payment of Student Loans (Active Support, **Adopted as Amended**)

Reference Committee F: AMA Governance and Finance

- Resolution 602: Equality (Active Support, **Referred**)

Resolution 602, authored by the AMA-YPS, includes the following Resolved clause:

RESOLVED, That all future meetings and conferences organized and/or sponsored by our American Medical Association, not yet contracted, only be held in towns, cities, counties, and states that do not have discriminatory policies based on race, color, religion, ethnic origin, national origin, language, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, disability, or age (New HOD Policy).

Reference Committee J (Medical Service, Medical Practice, Insurance)

- CMS Report 1: Infertility Benefits for Veterans (Resolution 223-I-15) (Active Support, **Adopted**)

CMS Report 1 stems from Resolution 223-I-15, Infertility Benefits for Wounded Warriors, which was authored by the AMA-YPS. This resolution asked our AMA to support lifting the Congressional ban on the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) from covering in vitro fertilization (IVF) costs. In addition, this

resolution asked the AMA to work with the American Society for Reproductive Medicine and other interested organizations to encourage lifting the Congressional ban on the VA from covering IVF costs.

- CMS Report 2: Health Care while Incarcerated (Resolution 118-A-16) (Active Support with amendment, **Adopted as Amended**)
- Resolution 804: Parity in Reproductive Health Insurance Coverage for Same-Sex Couples (Active Support, **Adopted as Amended with a change in title to read “Reproductive Health Insurance Coverage”**)

Resolution 804, authored by the AMA-YPS, includes the following Resolved clauses:

RESOLVED, That our AMA support parity in insurance coverage for fertility treatments for same-sex couples, when insurance provides coverage for fertility treatments (New HOD Policy); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA support local and state efforts to promote parity in reproductive health insurance coverage for same-sex couples when insurance provides coverage for fertility treatments. (New HOD Policy)

- Resolution 810: Medical Necessity of Breast Reconstruction and Reduction Surgeries (Active Support, **Substitute resolution adopted in lieu of Resolution 810**)
- Resolution 815: Preservation of Physician-Patient Relationships and Promotion of Continuity of Patient Care (Active Refer, **Adopted as Amended**)
- Resolution 819: Nonpayment for Unspecified Codes by Third Party Payers (Active Support, **Existing Policy Reaffirmed**)

Reference Committee K (Science and Public Health)

- Resolution 905: Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) Awareness (Active Oppose Resolved 1, Active Support with Amendment to Resolved 2, **Resolution 905 adopted as amended and Policy H-470.954 reaffirmed**)
- Resolution 916: Women and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) (Active Support with amendment to Resolved Clauses 1 and 2, **Policy H-20.985 adopted as amended in lieu of Resolution 916 and Policies H-20.922 and H-20.904 reaffirmed**)

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

Finally, in our YPS Reference Committee, three reports were considered:

- **Report A: Governing Council Activities/Action Plan Update**
Report A is a compilation of activities accomplished by the AMA-YPS since the 2016 Annual Meeting. Updates on AMA-YPS objectives are organized under four main categories: focus, communications, leadership development and membership/involvement.
- **Report B: AMA Advocacy Efforts**
Report B describes AMA and AMA-YPS advocacy efforts undertaken since the 2015 Interim Meeting.
- **Report C: AMA-YPS Directives Proposed for Sunset**
Report C presents recommendations by the YPS Governing Council to sunset the following AMA-YPS directives:
 1. Your Governing Council recommends that the AMA-YPS sunset the directive, AMA-YPS Key Directions: Communications.
 2. Your Governing Council recommends that the AMA-YPS sunset the directive, AMA-YPS Key Directions: AMA-YPS Membership.

3. Your Governing Council recommends that the AMA-YPS sunset the directive, AMA-YPS Key Directions: AMA-YPS Leadership Development.
4. Your Governing Council recommends that the AMA-YPS sunset the directive, Strategic Planning.
5. Your Governing Council recommends that the AMA-YPS sunset the directive, Increasing Specialty Society Representation in the AMA-YPS.

As you can see, as a section we are very successful advocates, the YPS testified on 23 items of business and the HOD was aligned with the YPS positions on almost all of the of the reports and resolutions. Those items of business not adopted were referred or reaffirmed.

For future meetings, we 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, we 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. We hope that everyone will consider volunteering some of your valuable time to this YPS function. Our positions as a Section are a significant part of ensuring that AMA policy remains relevant for 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 to find out more.

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