

The American Medical Association and health system reform, 2007-2019

“The AMA believes that every American deserves quality, affordable health care insurance. That is why we supported the Affordable Care Act in 2009, opposed efforts to repeal the law, and are actively engaged in litigation to defend the law in *Texas v. Azar*. The status quo for our patients is unacceptable, and policymakers should continue taking steps to improve coverage, affordability, and expand the safety net. AMA policy says patients and physicians should have a range of public and private coverage options and benefit from freedom of choice and competition, which can be achieved by building on our current system, with the goal of providing coverage to all Americans.”

-AMA President Barbara L. McAneny

- 2007: **AMA launches** its *Voice for the Uninsured* campaign, highlighting the AMA proposal for expanding health insurance coverage which would provide Americans with the means to purchase coverage; give individuals choices to select the appropriate coverage for them and their families; and promote needed health insurance market reforms.
- 2009: **AMA endorses** Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which resulted in more than 20 million Americans gaining health insurance coverage, required insurers to accept all applicants and charge the same rates regardless of pre-existing conditions or sex, allowed for Medicaid expansion, and mandated essential health benefits¹
- 2015: **Following years of AMA advocacy**, Congress passes the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act, legislation repealing the SGR formula and helping Medicare beneficiaries by removing uncertainty, improving care quality and lowering costs²
For states that have not yet expanded Medicaid, the AMA advocates that the federal government provide three years of 100 percent funding for state Medicaid expansion programs. The AMA also supports maintenance of federal funding for Medicaid expansion populations at 90 percent beyond 2020, as long as ACA’s Medicaid expansion exists³
- 2016: **AMA releases** its vision on health reform⁴, highlighting core principles necessary in any health system reform, including:
- Continue efforts to cover the uninsured, and ensure that any future proposals do not cause individuals covers as a result of the ACA to become uninsured;
 - Health insurance coverage should actually translate to patients having access to the care and providers they need;
 - Improve health equity for minority, underserved, and special needs populations;
 - Support reforms to Medicaid and Medicare to ensure they are viable and effective mechanisms to provide health insurance coverage to low-income people, seniors and the disabled
- 2017: **AMA sends letter** to Congressional leaders and incoming Administration reaffirming its strong vision for health reform as outlined in 2016⁵

¹ <http://www.cnn.com/2009/POLITICS/11/05/health.care/index.html>

² <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/ama-statements/ama-celebrates-historic-medicare-reforms-passed-congress>

³ <https://newsletter.ama-assn.org/docs/17-90300-advocacy-strengthening-medicaid-final.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.ama-assn.org/sites/ama-assn.org/files/corp/media-browser/public/washington/ama-vision-on-health-reform.pdf>

⁵ <https://searchlf.ama-assn.org/letter/documentDownload?uri=%2Funstructured%2Fbinary%2Fletter%2FLETTERS%2FACA%2520Letter.pdf>

AMA opposes American Health Care Act, which would have repealed significant portions of the ACA and resulted in millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage⁶

The AMA opposes Senate legislation that would have resulted in millions of Americans losing their health insurance coverage and destabilized health insurance markets⁷

The AMA adopts policy opposing Medicaid work requirements and the removal of categories from the essential health benefits package, as well as waivers of EHB requirements⁸

2018: **AMA and other physician organizations** defend patient protections and coverage by filing amicus brief in Texas v. Azar case, a lawsuit threatening popular ACA provisions. Litigation is ongoing⁹

⁶ <https://searchf.ama-assn.org/letter/documentDownload?uri=%2Funstructured%2Fbinary%2Fletter%2FLETTERS%2F2017-4-27%2520AMA-Letter-to-Hill-re-MacArthur-Amendment-et-al.pdf>

⁷ <https://searchf.ama-assn.org/undefined/documentDownload?uri=%2Funstructured%2Fbinary%2Fletter%2FLETTERS%2F2017-9-19-AMA-Letter-on-Graham-Cassidy-Amendment-Final.pdf>

⁸ <https://www.ama-assn.org/practice-management/medicaid/physicians-oppose-harmful-changes-medicaid-benefits-rules>

⁹ <https://www.ama-assn.org/sites/ama-assn.org/files/corp/media-browser/FINAL-AMA-Amicus-Brief.pdf>