

Dear Colleagues,

It is my privilege to welcome you to the 2024 American Medical Association (AMA) Medical Student Advocacy Conference. Thank you for taking the time and effort to join us for the AMA's largest medical student advocacy event in Washington, DC! This annual event is designed to bring medical students together, equip you with the skills necessary to effectively engage in legislative advocacy, and provide you with the opportunity to speak directly with your lawmakers about the most important issues in health care. You'll also get to hear from a number of influential leaders in Washington, DC, including physician members of the Biden-Harris Administration and physician members of Congress.

This year, our goal is to empower medical students with the skills and tools necessary to advocate for physicians and trainees, to advocate for patients, and to advocate for our communities. As medical students, we offer a unique perspective as the future of medicine. We come from all different backgrounds, identities, and lived experiences, and have the distinct privilege of seeing and treating patients from diverse backgrounds, identities, and lived experiences. It is crucial that we as medical students and future physicians use our voice, expertise, and experience to advocate and address the inequities experienced by our colleagues, patients, and communities. The opportunities in store for you at the 2024 Medical Student Advocacy Conference give you the power to do just that! This is your chance to collaborate with other medical students who are passionate about advocacy, cultivate your leadership and legislative advocacy skills, and foster important relationships with your elected public officials to continue your advocacy beyond this conference.

To support you in your advocacy journey at the Medical Student Advocacy Conference, we've appointed some of your fellow peers with advocacy experience to serve as State/Region Captains. If you have any questions or need advice about your Hill Visits, please use them as a resource! This conference is intended to support you and your advocacy – so take advantage of it!

Make sure you share your experiences and stories at the Medical Student Advocacy Conference on social media using the hashtag **#MedStudentsAdvocate!** Remember to tag us **@amermedicalassn** and **@amamedstudents**.

I'm thrilled that you are prioritizing advocacy in your medical education journey, and I can't wait to see all of the incredible work that you do. The Medical Student Advocacy Conference is just the first step! If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at any time at the information below.

Sincerely,

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