



# NATIONAL ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

Feb. 12–14, 2024  
Grand Hyatt Washington  
Washington, D.C.



## Monday, Feb. 12

### President's lecture

3–4 p.m.

Independence Ballroom A



#### Brian J. Miller, MD, MBA, MPH

Commissioner, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; nonresident fellow, American Enterprise Institute; practicing hospitalist, Johns Hopkins Hospital; and assistant professor of medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Kicking off this year's conference is Dr. Miller with "Rage against the machine: Retaking control of clinical practice." Physicians today face regulatory barriers, ownership bans, administrative issues and more—all of which hamper a physician's ability to provide efficient and effective care. Simultaneously, these same challenges remove the locus of control over clinical practice away from patients and physicians, driving physician burnout and lowering the quality of care. Hear how physicians can retake control of clinical practice and avoid being cogs in the machine.

### AMA leadership on the issues

4–5 p.m.

Independence Ballroom A

Moderated by American Medical Association CEO and Executive Vice President James L. Madara, MD, this session shares the perspectives of the AMA president, president-elect and the chair of the AMA Board of Trustees on the issues they address daily when discussing the AMA's efforts and advocacy agenda with members of Congress, the administration and the media.

- **Jesse M. Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH**, president, AMA
- **Bruce A. Scott, MD**, president-elect, AMA
- **Willie Underwood III, MD, MSc, MPH**, chair, Board of Trustees, AMA

### Hill visits: A how-to

5–5:30 p.m.

Independence Ballroom A

You've heard about the key issues facing medicine this year—now learn how to activate your advocacy in this Hill visit how-to session for newcomers and veteran attendees alike. Get the nuts-and-bolts information you need—plus tips on strategy, messaging and more—to make your Hill visits over the next two days successful.

- **Rob Jordan**, vice president, Political Affairs, AMA
- **Jason Marino**, director, Congressional Affairs, AMA

### Hill visits: Training with Soapbox

5:30–6 p.m.

Independence Ballroom A

#### Christopher Kush, MPP

CEO, Soapbox Consulting

Get details on logistics for your Hill visits.

### Welcome reception (Sponsored by AMPAC)

6–7 p.m.

Independence Ballroom B–E

## Tuesday, Feb. 13

### Breakfast

7–8 a.m.

Independence Ballroom B–E

### The road ahead: Politics and policy in 2024

8:30–9:30 a.m.

Independence Ballroom A

#### Bruce Mehlman and David Thomas

Mehlman Consulting

Bipartisan Washington veterans will share perspectives on American politics and policy. With decades of experience in and around government and a data-rich, high-energy presentation, these insiders bring humor and insight to help audiences understand the macro trends impacting our nation.

### Medicare payment: In the field

9:30–10 a.m.

Independence Ballroom A

How does Medicare payment impact the everyday practice of medicine, and how does the current instability in the system jeopardize patient access to care? Hear perspectives from physicians about why this is such a crucial issue to take to Capitol Hill.

- **Nita Kulkarni, MD**, ob-gyn (Flint, Mich.)
- **Lorraine Rosamilia, MD**, dermatologist (State College, Pa.)

### From the administration

10–10:30 a.m.

Independence Ballroom A



#### Chiquita Brooks-LaSure

Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Join us for a discussion with Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Under her leadership, CMS oversees the health care coverage of more than 160 million people enrolled in the three Ms—Medicare, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Health Insurance Marketplaces.

### Augmented intelligence in medicine

10:30–11 a.m.

Independence Ballroom A

Explore the AMA's new advocacy principles for the design, development and deployment of augmented intelligence (AI). Learn about the need for greater governance policies, more transparency, the importance of data privacy and cybersecurity, and concerns about payer use of AI to limit access to care. Hear about the current legislative and regulatory landscape for AI and about where we may be headed.

- **Gary W. Floyd, MD**, chair, AMA Council on Legislation
- **Shannon Curtis**, assistant director, Federal Affairs, AMA

## Congressional perspectives: Rep. Larry Bucshon, MD (R-Ind.)

11–11:30 a.m.

Independence Ballroom A



Before his election to Congress in 2010, Rep. Larry Bucshon, MD, who represents the 8th District of Indiana, was a practicing surgeon specializing in cardiothoracic surgery. A champion for advancing patient-centered health care reforms that will give patients and their physicians the freedom to make

their own health care decisions as opposed to Washington bureaucrats, Rep. Bucshon is leading congressional efforts to modernize the physician fee schedule by providing physicians with an annual inflation-based update. He currently serves as a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has a broad jurisdiction over our nation's energy, health care, telecommunications and consumer product safety policies, as well as on the committee's Health Subcommittee, Energy Subcommittee, and Innovation, Data, and Commerce Subcommittee.

## Capitol Hill briefing

11:30 a.m.–noon

Independence Ballroom A

In this session senior advocacy staff from the AMA will deliver an overview of the organization's priority issues and things to keep in mind when you are meeting with members of Congress.

- **Todd Askew**, senior vice president, Advocacy, AMA
- **Cindy Brown**, vice president, Government Affairs, AMA
- **Jason Marino**, director, Congressional Affairs, AMA

## Lunch

Noon–1 p.m.

Independence Ballroom B–E

## Afternoon: Free for Hill visits

## AMA Awards for Outstanding Government Service reception

6–7 p.m.

Independence Ballroom B–E

This reception is open to all National Advocacy Conference attendees.

## AMA Awards for Outstanding Government Service dinner

7–9:30 p.m.

Independence Ballroom A



### Geoff Bennett

Co-anchor, *PBS NewsHour*

Known for his compelling breakdown of the political issues and current events shaping our country, ceremony host Geoff Bennett is a long-standing, sought-after presence with many of America's leading media outlets. An acclaimed journalist, he has reported from the White House under three presidents, covered five presidential elections, and grabbed national headlines with his exclusive interviews of Washington, D.C.'s most influential figures.

## Wednesday, Feb. 14

### Breakfast

7–7:45 a.m.

Independence Ballroom B–E

## Congressional perspectives: Rep. Robin Kelly (D-III.)

8–8:30 a.m.

Independence Ballroom A



Rep. Robin Kelly has served the 2nd Congressional District of Illinois since 2013. She has championed numerous initiatives to reduce health disparities, address maternal mortality and end gun violence.

Rep. Kelly is a member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the main policy-writing body of the House, a member of the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, which sets the policy direction of the Democratic Caucus, as well as the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust. She is the original cosponsor of H.R. 6371, the Provider Reimbursement Stability Act of 2023, to reform the Medicare budget neutrality process.

### From the administration

8:30–9 a.m.

Independence Ballroom A



### Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH

Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Mandy K. Cohen, MD, MPH, has a proven track record protecting Americans' health and safety and is one of the nation's top health leaders with experience leading large and complex organizations. In addition to serving as the director of the CDC, she is the administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the former chief operating officer and chief of staff of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. An internal medicine physician, Dr. Cohen also led the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services during the COVID crisis and in 2019 was named by *Modern Healthcare* as one of the "Top 25 Women Leaders in Healthcare."

## Inside the Beltway

9–10 a.m.

Independence Ballroom A



### Donna Brazile

Political strategist and commentator; former interim chair of the Democratic National Committee

Political strategist Donna Brazile is the former interim chair of the DNC, as well as the former DNC vice chair for civic engagement and voter participation. Brazile, who was the first African-American woman to manage a presidential campaign, is an adjunct professor, best-selling author, syndicated columnist and current Fox News contributor. Named by *Washingtonian* magazine as one of its “100 most powerful women,” Brazile uses her southern charm and often hilarious anecdotes to bring meaningful context and insights to the issues of the day.



### Ana Navarro

GOP strategist and political contributor to CNN and Telemundo; co-host of ABC's *The View*

Ana Navarro is a well-known Republican strategist who brings a larger-than-life personality and no-holds-barred candor to her political analysis.

Respected on both sides of the aisle, Navarro is frequently called on for her spot-on commentary. Always in touch and informed with the political issues people are talking about, audiences can count on Navarro to deliver an insider's view of the upcoming elections and a roadmap for where the country is headed.

## From the administration

10–11 a.m.

Independence Ballroom A



### Lina M. Khan

Chair, Federal Trade Commission

Prior to becoming head of the FTC in 2021, Lina M. Khan was an associate professor of law at Columbia Law School. She also previously served as counsel to the U.S. House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law, legal adviser to FTC Commissioner Rohit Chopra, and legal director at the Open Markets Institute.

Chair Khan's scholarship on antitrust and competition policy has been published in the *Columbia Law Review*, the *Harvard Law Review*, the *University of Chicago Law Review*, and the *Yale Law Journal*. She is a graduate of Williams College and Yale Law School.

## Congressional perspectives: Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-Fla.)

11–11:30 a.m.

Independence Ballroom A



Rep. Vern Buchanan is vice chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction over tax policy, international trade, health care, welfare, Social Security and Medicare.

A strong fiscal conservative who represents Florida's 16th Congressional District, he is the most senior Republican on the committee and currently serves as chairman of the Health Subcommittee, a key panel with broad jurisdiction over traditional Medicare, the Medicare prescription drug benefit and Medicare Advantage. Rep. Buchanan has had a multitude of his legislative initiatives signed into law that confront the drug epidemic, help Americans save for retirement and strengthen Medicare.

## Congressional perspectives: Rep. Ami Bera, MD (D-Calif.)

11:30 a.m.–noon

Independence Ballroom A



Rep. Ami Bera, MD, has represented California's 6th Congressional District since 2013. He is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic. He is also a member of the New Democrat Coalition, a group of forward-thinking Democrats who are committed to working on bipartisan pro-economic growth, pro-innovation and fiscally responsible policies.

As a physician Rep. Bera understands the challenges of running a practice in today's inflationary environment with continuously decreasing federal reimbursements. He has long been a champion for legislation to streamline the prior authorization process and provide physicians in the Medicare program with an inflation-based update.

## Congressional perspectives: Rep. Richard Neal (D-Mass.)

Noon–12:30 p.m.

Independence Ballroom A



Rep. Richard “Richie” E. Neal was first elected to the United States House of Representatives in 1988. He joined the powerful Ways and Means Committee in 1993 and was elected committee chairman by his colleagues in 2019. The Ways and Means Committee has shared jurisdiction over the Medicare program and develops numerous pieces of legislation that impact physicians. As the current ranking member of the committee, Rep. Neal has tremendous influence over the effort to reform the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act and Medicare physician payments, in general. Having played a major role in the enactment of the No Surprises Act, Rep. Neal is currently part of the ongoing effort to ensure this bipartisan bill is implemented in a way that does not stray from legislative intent.

## Lunch

12:30 p.m.

Independence Ballroom B–E

## Afternoon: Free for Hill visits

All speakers and times are subject to change.