AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

175th ANNUAL MEETING
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
June 5-10, 2026

CALL TO ORDER AND MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

CALL TO ORDER: The House of Delegates convened its 175th Annual Meeting at 6 p.m. Friday, June 5, 2026, in the Grand Ballroom of the Hyatt Regency, Chicago, IL. Lisa Bohman Egbert, MD, Speaker of the House of Delegates, presiding. The Saturday, June 6; Monday, June 8; and the Tuesday, June 9 sessions also convened in the Grand Ballroom. The meeting adjourned following the Tuesday session.

INVOCATION: The invocation was provided via pre-recorded video by Dr. Roger A. Mitchell, Jr. He is the 126th president of the National Medical Association and a board-certified forensic pathologist. He recently served as President of Howard University Hospital where he led sweeping transformation of one of the nation's most historic academic safety-net hospitals. He is a licensed minister at the New Bethel Baptist Church in Washington DC.

REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND CREDENTIALS: The following reports were presented by Deborah Fuller, MD, Chair:

CREDENTIALS: The Committee on Rules and Credentials reported that on Friday, June 5, 529 out of 789 delegates (67%) had been accredited, thus constituting a quorum; on Saturday, June 6, 692 out of 789 delegates (88%) were present; on Monday, June 8, 752 out of 793 (95%) were present; and on Tuesday, June 9, 767 out of 793 (97%) were present.

RULES REPORT - Friday, June 5

HOUSE ACTION: ADOPTED

Your Committee on Rules and Credentials recommends the following temporary rules for this meeting:

1. Standing Rules
   The current edition of the "House of Delegates Reference Manual: Procedures, Policies and Practices" serves as our standing rules delineating the official method of procedure in handling and conducting the business before the AMA House of Delegates.

2. House Security
   Maximum security shall be maintained at all times to prevent disruptions of the House, and only those individuals who have been properly badged will be permitted to attend.

3. Credentials
   The registration record of the Committee on Rules and Credentials shall constitute the official roll call for this meeting of the House.

4. Order of Business
   The order of business as published in the Handbook shall be the official order of business for all sessions of the House of Delegates. This may be varied by the Speaker if, in their judgment, it will expedite the business of the House, subject to any objection sustained by the House.

5. Privilege of the Floor
   The Speaker may grant the privilege of the floor to such persons as may be presented by the President, or Chair of the Board of Trustees, or others who may expedite the business of the House, subject to objections sustained by the House.

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6. Limitation on Debate
   There will be a 90 second limitation on debate per presentation subject to waiver by the Speaker for just cause. The 90 second limitation will also apply to testimony in the in-person reference committee hearings.

7. Conflict of Interest
   Members of the House of Delegates who have an interest that is or may be material to the matter being considered and that would reasonably be expected to impair the objectivity of the individual who is testifying, must publicly disclose that interest immediately prior to testifying at a reference committee on the matter or speaking on the floor of the House of Delegates on the matter.

8. Conduct of Business by the House of Delegates
   Each member of the House of Delegates and the AMA Officers resolutely affirm a commitment to abide by our AMA Code of Conduct.

9. Respectful Behavior
   Courteous, collegial, and respectful behavior in all interactions with others, including delegates, is expected of all attendees at House of Delegates meetings, including social events apart from House of Delegates meetings themselves.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT - Saturday, June 6

HOUSE ACTION: ADOPTED AS FOLLOWS
LATE RESOLUTIONS 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, AND 1005 ACCEPTED

The Committee on Rules and Credentials met Friday, June 5, to discuss Late Resolutions. The sponsors of the late resolutions met with the committee and were given the opportunity to present for the committee's consideration the reason the resolution could not be submitted in a timely fashion and the urgency of consideration by the House of Delegates at this meeting.

Recommended for acceptance:

- Late 1001 – Addressing Housing Needs of the Native Hawaiian and their Diaspora
- Late 1002 – Preserving and Strengthening Maternal Mortality Review Committees
- Late 1003 – Taking Action on Deaths in Custody
- Late 1004 – Protection of Medicaid Beneficiaries from Politically Motivated and Procedurally Deficient Federal Funding Deferrals
- Late 1005 – Age Verification and ENDS Products
- Late 1006 – OMB Proposed Rule: Regulation for Federal Financial Assistance

CLOSING REPORT – Tuesday, June 9

HOUSE ACTION: ADOPTED

Your Committee on Rules and Credentials wishes to commend the Speaker, Doctor Egbert, and the Vice Speaker, Doctor Armstrong, for the outstanding manner in which they have assisted our deliberations by their fair and impartial conduct of the House of Delegates and to commend the members of the House for their cooperation in expediting the business before us.

Your Committee wishes at this time to offer the following Resolution:

Whereas, the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association has been convened in Chicago, Illinois, the period of June 5-10; and

Whereas, this Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates has been most profitable and enjoyable from the viewpoint of policy deliberations and fellowship; and

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Whereas, the City of Chicago has extended to the members attending this meeting the utmost hospitality and friendliness; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that expressions of deep appreciation be made to the AMA Board of Trustees for arranging this meeting, to the management of the Hyatt Regency Chicago, to the City of Chicago, and to the splendid men and women of our American Medical Association staff who participated in the planning and conduct of this Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates.

Madam Speaker, this concludes the Report of the Committee on Rules and Credentials, and we recommend its adoption.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The Proceedings of the 2025 Interim Meeting of the House of Delegates, held November 14-17, 2025, were approved.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT: AMA President Bobby Mukkamala, MD delivered the following address titled, "Leading with Purpose," to the House of Delegates on Friday, June 5, 2026.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Vice Speaker, members of the Board, delegates, colleagues, and guests — it is an honor to address this House of Delegates one final time as AMA president.

At Interim in November, I told you I've been keeping a running count of how many days I have left in this role. Back then, it was 204.

Today, it is four

Don't get me wrong! I haven't been counting because I wanted this work to end — although it certainly has been intense at times.

I have been counting because this role is a privilege. And because I wanted to make the most of every single day with this platform.

I simply do not want to waste one moment of the time I have left.

Tonight, I want to talk about something that is close to my heart, and mind, these days – as I suspect it is for many people who have faced a difficult diagnosis.

Living a life of purpose.

As you all know, I began my presidency last June during a period of profound uncertainty.

Not only about my own health, but uncertainty across a health care system that is changing rapidly around us — creating new pressures, new questions, and new responsibilities for physicians and patients alike.

Through all of it, I have been deeply grateful for the AMA — and the sense of purpose I have found in our work.

The purpose to speak honestly about what is broken in health care — from the perspective of both physician and patient.

The purpose to stand up for science, public health, and truth when they are challenged.

The purpose to bring people together — not simply to debate problems, but to solve them.

And the purpose to tell our story … because the work of the AMA and organized medicine matters deeply for our patients.

We lead with purpose.
Take it from me, you don't need a life-altering diagnosis to find your purpose.

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Purpose is all around us – in our patients, in our communities, in the experiences that energize us and push us to make things better.

I have traveled the country, and the world, as AMA president in the past year, but my view of health care remains grounded in what I see in Nita's and my own practice in Flint, Michigan.

Because policy decisions made in Washington or in state capitals aren't abstract – they show up in real, tangible ways in our patients' lives.

Whether they can find a physician when they need one.

Whether they can afford their medication.

You've heard me speak often about my hometown – a proud Rust Belt city, a city with tenacity, but one that knows all too well what happens when systems meant to protect people fall short.

When policymakers weaken programs that people rely on for care, the consequences are felt first and most deeply in communities that are already struggling to overcome barriers to health and opportunity.

That's why I am proud that our AMA has been a consistent and leading voice in opposing the Medicaid cuts that were passed into law last summer.

In cities like Flint and across this country, access to care isn't theoretical. It's everything.

And we must protect it at all costs!

That is our duty as doctors … as leaders.

When you spend as much time on the road and in your car as I do, you start to notice things.

The highways leading in and out of Flint are littered with billboards paid for by large hospitals promoting their latest in acute care.

Greatest place for a hip replacement.

Greatest place for bariatric surgery.

Greatest place for hernias.

Now, these services are great if your health needs are specific to these issues.

But what about the health needs of most people?

I wish I would see billboards – maybe even from the AMA – broadcasting what we know is essential for good health – early screenings, healthy foods, timely appointments – the true building blocks of a thriving community.

Our country is the best in the world when it comes to treating patients that have narrow, acute health challenges.

But if we want to live healthier lives and lower the cost of care, preventing disease and stopping its progress are essential.

It's why I chose to pursue lifestyle medicine certification, which has fundamentally changed how I talk with my patients.

I'll ask them: What kinds of exercise do you enjoy?
How much sleep are you getting?

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These questions are just as relevant as questions about joint pain or sinus pressure because the answers tell a complete story about a person's health.

This is why the AMA has renewed its focus on lifestyle in the past year – championing whole-body health through education, advocacy, physician engagement and evidence-based strategies that help patients make meaningful changes in their lives to improve outcomes.

Our purpose, as physicians, is to leave things better than we found it.

That means helping build a system that values prevention as much as treatment - and ensuring physicians have the tools, the training, and the support to make that vision a reality.

It also means pushing back against efforts to politicize medical care and undermine science.

When trust is weakened, every diagnosis becomes harder, every treatment more difficult, and every patient is put at greater risk.

Over the past year, the AMA has used our voice to confront misinformation, repair public trust, and support physicians navigating increasingly difficult conversations with our patients every day.

Trust is foundational in medicine.

And at a time when so many voices are competing for attention and influence, we will make sure that physicians remain the most trusted voices in health care.

But trust alone is not enough.

Physicians need a system that supports our ability to care for our patients. And that simply is not the reality today.

We have a Medicare payment system that no longer reflects the realities of practicing medicine, we are mired in prior authorization battles, and inundated with one administrative hassle after another.

And when physicians are exhausted, when practices are struggling, when so many of our colleagues are questioning how long they can continue, it affects us physically, mentally, and morally,

These are serious headwinds.

But confronting them is the work of the AMA. It is the reason we are here.

Not to accept a system that falls short – but to build a better one.

This is why, despite the challenges, I am optimistic about medicine's future.

Even in a deeply divided Washington, the AMA has shown us that progress is possible.

Our advocacy secured a bipartisan funding package that includes several reforms that are steppingstones to a better system.

This includes telehealth, diabetes prevention, and physician well-being.

It includes important protections like making sure that Medicare Advantage plans tell the truth about who is actually in their network and making sure PBMs have greater accountability.

And just last week, AMA won improvements in the No Surprises Act's dispute resolution process – resulting in clearer guidance, greater flexibility and stronger transparency, benefitting physicians and ultimately our patients. These victories did not happen overnight. They are the result of our hard work, our sustained advocacy and strong physician engagement over many years.

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Progress is seldom quick or easy.

But the lesson is clear: When the AMA shows up and physicians lead, medicine moves forward.

For the betterment of patients and the profession.

But our ability to lead depends on something fundamental: Physicians choosing to be part of this work.

AMA membership is the highest it's been in decades – surpassing 320,000.

And yet we still have far too many physicians who benefit from the work of the AMA … but remain disconnected from it.

Every day, I get emails from physicians who want me or the AMA to solve some problem they have.

I respond with a polite thank you and then share exactly what the AMA is doing on that issue. And I always end with a question: are you an AMA member?

And if they're right in front of me I ask them to scan this QR code I wear in my suit.

Because apathy is not ok. The challenges we face are too important for us to sit on the sidelines.

If we want a stronger voice for physicians, we need more physicians at the table.

This is the message I deliver in just about every talk I give across the country. And I'm always surprised by the response.

Many physicians who were skeptical of the AMA — or simply unaware of the scope of our work — come up to me afterward and said: *I didn't realize the AMA was doing all of this.*

And most of them join us.

Because when physicians understand the impact of this organization … they want to be part of it.

That is progress.

But we aren't at the finish line.

We have to keep telling our story every chance that we get.

Whether we're in large hospitals, in group practices, or small independent ones like Nita and me.

There is far more that connects us than divides us.

Our voice is stronger – and our impact greater – when we stand united.

While I only have a few days left as your president, I am proud of what we have accomplished together this past year – and the fight that we are in.

That purpose has sustained me.

But not too much pride though, because the Catholic School I went to taught me: Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.

In many ways, carrying the AMA's message all over the country became part of my recovery.

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After surgery, there were weeks when I struggled to do things I had always taken for granted. There was a time when I couldn't even read a speech from a piece of paper.

So me being able to think, write, speak, and engage again felt like a gift.

Each assignment. Each speech. Each opportunity to learn, contribute, and push myself a little further became part of my healing process.

The work you asked me to do as president gave me purpose. And that purpose helped me recover.

Before long I found myself energized, even at home as I packed my bags for my next trip somewhere

And, as many of you know, I can be a little goofy.

On those rare evenings at home when I had finished in the office or the operating room, I'd hang out with friends – including some hip hop artist friends of mine – and well…I'll just show ya…

(video clip)

For those who want to see the entire video, I'll post it later tonight.

Sometimes advocacy means stepping outside of your comfort zone – and taking a new approach to delivering the same old message.

And just like the movie I did in India, this song proves, yet again, that I am a no-hit wonder.

But life is meant to be fun, to be fulfilling, and because of you – and this work we are privileged to do – mine is.

Of course, nobody does this alone, and I could not have gotten through the last year without the support of my incredible wife Nita, and my sons Deven and Nikhil, who are with us tonight.

Support through my recovery and tolerance of my short fuse in a busy year – yes I was high maintenance in a big way, but they tolerated every single minute of it

And we will always be grateful for the kindness of our parents.

And for the inspiration I've gotten from the generation of physicians before me like my mom and dad

At a time when so much in this country feels divided, the AMA continues to demonstrate something important: physicians can still come together. We can debate. We can listen. We can work hard to find common ground. And we can move forward, united.

That is the strength of this House.

This is our purpose.

And throughout this wonderful and challenging year, our shared purpose stayed with me.

This House stayed with me.

You reminded me … that when physicians stand together, we are the most powerful force for good in medicine.

I will carry this experience with me – always.

Because our responsibility does not end here.
In many ways, it is just beginning.

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Let us move forward together – with unity and with purpose.

Thank you for your trust.

Your friendship.

And the extraordinary honor of serving as your president.

Thank you for giving me purpose.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT: John J. Whyte, MD, MPH executive vice president of the Association, delivered the following address title, "Physician Leadership for a New Era," to the House of Delegates on Friday, June 5, 2026.

Madam Speaker, members of the Board, esteemed delegates, colleagues, and friends …

Over the past year — my first as CEO of the AMA — I've spent a great deal of time reflecting on where this profession has been … where it stands today … and where we must go next.

What has become increasingly clear is that medicine is entering a new era.

The forces reshaping health care are accelerating.

Technology is changing how care is delivered.

Trust in science and institutions is being tested.

Patients are overwhelmed by information … and seeking guidance they can rely on.

And in moments like this, physician leadership matters more than ever.

Because if we do not help shape the future of medicine, others will shape it for us.

These are the stakes.

And it is why the work of this House — and the work of the AMA — carries such urgency right now.

Throughout its history, the AMA has led by defining what better medicine should look like.

A system grounded in **science**.

In **ethics**.

In **innovation**.

And above all, in **trust**.

That responsibility now belongs to us.

Not simply because medicine is changing — but because we can still shape what it becomes.
At the Interim Meeting, I spoke about a future where physicians do not respond to the forces transforming health care — but help define them.

Where physicians are **architects** of medicine's future.
Tonight, I want to talk about how we are building toward that vision.

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Over the past year, the AMA has acted with greater urgency, greater clarity, and a stronger sense of purpose.

When institutions backed away from science or jeopardized patient safety, the AMA stood up.

We opposed changes to the vaccine schedule that put children at serious risk.

We called out Health and Human Services for weakening the leadership of the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force and undermining essential evidence-based preventive care.

We pushed for greater accountability in AI as adoption continues to move faster than the safeguards needed to protect patients.

We fought AI deepfakes and false medical claims that spread misinformation online.

And here's the thing — AI deepfakes — which steal your identity — do not just manipulate images.

They manipulate trust — in a time when trust is more fragile than ever.

The AMA also stood up in the courts — working with state medical societies to fight automatic downcoding and out-of-network penalties that unfairly punish physicians and harm patients.

We **must** protect physicians' ability to choose how, where, and in what setting they practice — independently, within health systems, in academic medicine, in rural communities, or through new and emerging models.

As our Chair, Dr. Daivd Aizuss, made clear at the AMA's National Advocacy Conference, when insurers impose reckless policies that undermine physicians and jeopardize patient care, we will not stand down.

We are ready for this fight – and if necessary – we will see them in court!

But leadership is not just standing up to bad policy.

It is building what comes next.
We fight for a system centered around the needs of patients … grounded in evidence … and strengthened by innovation that delivers better care and better outcomes.

This requires a new strategic vision for the AMA — one grounded in a simple idea:

We must be the leading and most trusted partner for physicians as they navigate the future of medicine – stewards of patient care and the profession.

So, what does that mean in practice?

First, we lead by elevating the physician voice — your voice — on the issues that matter most.

Today, information is everywhere.

But trusted information is not.

Patients are overwhelmed by misinformation, conflicting advice, and online voices that too often prioritize attention over evidence.

In this environment, physicians remain one of the most trusted sources of health information in American life.

That trust matters.

And it carries enormous responsibility.

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That is why we launched the *Health vs. Hype* podcast to bring credible physician voices back to the center of public conversation. In just three months, it has become one of the top health podcasts. People are searching for health information --- and our AMA is providing it.

It is why we continue to expand our Your Care Is At Our Core campaign, now active in 28 states, reminding patients that physicians put **their** needs first.

And it is why we are preparing to launch a new national campaign – *Have You asked your Doctor?* – focused on rebuilding trust in medicine, science, and physician expertise at a moment when all three are being tested.

Second, we lead by helping physicians build strong, sustainable careers across the full arc of professional life.

We recently launched the Career Advancement Collective to help physicians acquire the skills needed to run a business, build a thriving practice, learn leadership skills, and drive medicine's transformation.

We have expanded our education and training opportunities so physicians can develop the leadership skills necessary to navigate a rapidly changing health care environment.

The demands on physicians are evolving.

It is no longer enough to be clinically excellent — though that remains essential.

Physicians must also be interpreters of information.

Leaders of teams.

Navigators of technology.

Trusted voices in increasingly complex environments.

And they need support not just at the beginning of their careers, but throughout their professional lives.

Third, we lead by advancing physician well-being and reducing the burdens that can compromise patient care.

Despite progress, burnout remains high across medicine.

Administrative complexity can overwhelm.

And physicians continue to practice in a fragmented system that too often feels transactional and bureaucratic.

So we have helped lead the charge to reform prior authorization.

To align Medicare payments with the true costs of running a practice.

We tripled our investment to protect scope of practice.

And we launched a major new Advocacy Accelerator grant program to drive change in your home states.

Across the board, we have strengthened our advocacy by showing up earlier … by speaking more clearly and more forcefully … and by always keeping the focus where it belongs.
Because in this environment, it is not enough to be right.

We have to be **heard**.
We have to **ACT**.
And we have to be **trusted**.

Fourth, we champion physician leadership in health care technology.

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That means leading how AI is used — not reacting to it.

It means elevating physicians not simply as users of technology, but as stewards of its design, implementation, and deployment.

We continue to build out the AMA Center for Digital Health and AI that we launched last year — producing studies, research, and practical guidance to ensure physician expertise helps shape AI's future.

And finally, we lead by strengthening public health and expanding access to care grounded in evidence.

Patients need clarity — especially in a time of distrust.
They want to know where they can turn.

That is why we are engaging directly with the public in new ways.

On social media.
In podcasts.
In leading publications.

And in national conversations shaping public opinion.

It is why we joined the Vaccine Integrity Project — ensuring that evidence, not politics, drives vaccine policy.

And it is why we are changing how we recognize leadership in our profession.

And I am very excited that next year, we will launch a new AMA awards program — one that reflects the scale and significance of those shaping medicine's future.

We will honor physicians for their impact on technology, public health, scientific advancement, communication, and innovation that improves the lives of patients.

If others will not recognize contributions to public health, **we will**.

If others will not honor advancements in science, **we will**.

And we might even bring a little glitz to it! Just a little.

The past year has tested all of us — and our profession.

But it has also clarified our purpose.

We have positioned the AMA for medicine's future.

With a clearer direction.

A stronger voice.

And a deeper commitment to helping physicians navigate a future that will be more complex — and more consequential — than ever before.
It is an incredible honor for me to do this work alongside all of you.

And if I may take a moment of personal privilege —

I want to express my gratitude to this House for welcoming me into your family, and to the AMA Board of Trustees for entrusting me with this responsibility.
I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge my partners in crime …

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Dr. Bobby Mukkamala and Dr. David Aizuss.

From my first day, David said his goal was to help me succeed. And I have felt that. And Bobby has texted me every day … yes, every day … with ideas on how we can make AMA stronger.

I could not have asked for two better leaders to help me during this transition.

Their wisdom, counsel, friendship, and steady partnership have helped guide this organization through an important chapter.

They have been extraordinary partners to me during this first year.

And the AMA is stronger because of their leadership, integrity, and commitment to this profession.

I thank them both deeply.

Many of you met my children at the Interim Meeting. They aren't here in person today – and that allows me to tell a story.

Luke, my oldest, and I share a playlist on Spotify. It's because he wanted the ad-free version.

And we listen to the playlist together in the car on the days I drive him to the bus stop or a sports activity.

And there's a song he introduced me to called "the nights" by Avicii.

And some of you might have recognized that's the song I walked up to when the speaker introduced me.

There's a line in the song I really like –

"one day you'll leave this world behind … so live a life you will remember."

Advocacy is, in many ways, about exactly that.

The physicians in this House are building a legacy – not for ourselves but for our patients our profession, and the next generation.

The policies we shape, the science we defend, the care we fight to improve – these actions outlast us.

Those who come after us will inherit the healthcare system we choose to build today.

That is why the work over the next few days matters.

Thank you.

REPORT OF AMPAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The following report was submitted by John W. Pool, MD, Chair of AMPAC.

On behalf of the AMPAC Board of Directors, I am pleased to present this report to the House of Delegates regarding our activities this election cycle. As AMPAC marks its 65th anniversary in 2026, our profession continues to face multiple challenges in healthcare policy that will directly impact our practices and our patients. AMPAC will help our profession, and our patients, meet those challenges. We remain committed to our core mission—to provide physicians with opportunities to support physician-friendly candidates who will help advance an advocacy agenda that protects our profession and our patients. In addition, we continue to help physician advocates grow their abilities through our political education programs, which include intensive training sessions that provide them with the tools necessary to successfully take the next step and work on campaigns or run for office themselves.

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AMPAC Membership Fundraising

AMPAC celebrates its 65th anniversary, marking more than six decades of advocacy for physicians and patients. This milestone year is accompanied by continued growth, with total receipts through May 20 reaching $1.78 million, a 30 percent increase over the same point in the last cycle, driven by a 35 percent increase in hard dollar contributions. This increase reflects expanded educational campaigns, enhanced digital and peer-to-peer outreach and quarterly newsletters that help broaden participation and sustain fundraising momentum. Capitol Club membership remains strong, with 555 members, including 71 Diamond-level contributors. Together, these efforts are strengthening engagement and positioning AMPAC for continued success throughout this anniversary year.

Thank you to those members who have already supported AMPAC this year. AMPAC continues to prioritize House of Delegates engagement, where participation currently stands at 30 percent. Our goal is to achieve 100% HOD participation in AMPAC. To further strengthen HOD involvement, AMPAC is launching a new AMPAC Leadership Cup, designed to encourage state delegation participation. This friendly competition places state delegations head-to-head in groups based on delegate counts, including alternate delegates as well as student and resident delegates and alternates. One AMPAC Leadership Cup trophy will be awarded per group. So, help energize your delegation and stand out within the HOD—all while earning official bragging rights at the AMA Interim Meeting with your state's name engraved on the AMPAC Leadership Cup trophy! We will also debut a Leadership Cup competition for councils at this meeting and plan to include specialty societies in the future.

Finally, as part of this milestone anniversary year, AMPAC will host two signature events at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 7. The Capitol Club Luncheon will feature Pulitzer Prize–winning author and historian Rick Atkinson, who will offer a compelling perspective on our nation's Founding Fathers and their continued relevance today. That evening, AMPAC's 65th Anniversary Rock 'n Roll Reception will bring all 2026 AMPAC members together for a celebration with live music, food, and drink with special recognition and exclusive experiences for Capitol Club Diamond members. Don't miss the opportunity to be part of this celebration and help amplify medicine's voice in 2026! Renew your support or join AMPAC today to take part in these exciting events by stopping by the AMPAC Booth located outside the HOD business session meeting room or by visiting: AMPAConline.org

Political Action

This election cycle presents a rare combination of volatility and opportunity for organized medicine. With narrow congressional margins, widespread member departures, and ongoing redistricting, AMPAC is strategically positioned to engage and elect medicine-friendly candidates who will help shape the next Congress.

As of May 28, 70 members of Congress are not seeking re-election or have already lost their primary elections—the second-highest level of turnover in the last century. The Senate could see as many as 16 departures, while the House is expected to lose more than 57 members. AMPAC is closely tracking these developments, along with redistricting activity in several states and more than 85 physicians considering federal office this cycle.

In this challenging political environment, AMPAC is strategically targeting open-seat opportunities, viable physician candidates, and medicine-friendly incumbents to strengthen organized medicine's influence in the next Congress. With bipartisan momentum building around issues such as prior authorization and Medicare physician payment reform, these investments are creating critical opportunities to engage the policymakers best positioned to advance medicine's priorities.

AMPAC has already invested more than $1 million in the 2026 cycle, including two independent expenditure campaigns in competitive primary elections supporting Richard Pan, MD (CA-06), and Tina Shah, MD (NJ-07). With fewer than 150 days until the general election, AMPAC's political activity will continue to accelerate.

Political Education Programs

The 2026 Candidate Workshop took place, April 17-19, at the AMA offices in Washington, DC. Interest in the program remains strong with 23 registrants and 18 participants. This included: 11 member physicians, two non-member physicians, one state staff and four member residents and students.

During the program participants heard from political experts on both sides of the aisle about what it takes to run a winning campaign. This included sessions on the importance of a disciplined campaign plan and message; the secrets of effective fundraising; what kinds of advertising may be right for your campaign; how to work with the media; as well as how to build your campaign team and a successful grassroots organization. The program also included a

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keynote session with Representative Herb Conaway, MD of New Jersey, a former Candidate Workshop graduate, who shared his stories and insights from the campaign trail as a physician candidate for office.

Promotion is currently underway for the 2026 Campaign School. The program will take place September 10-13 at the AMA offices in Washington, DC. As always, the political education programs remain a member benefit with registration fees heavily discounted for AMA members. Future program dates will be announced on AMPAConline.org.

Conclusion

On behalf of the AMPAC Board of Directors, I extend our sincere appreciation to members of the House of Delegates who continue to support AMPAC and our mission. As AMPAC marks its 65th anniversary, your active involvement in both political and grassroots advocacy is especially meaningful and essential to amplifying the voice of organized medicine on Capitol Hill. Your dedication not only helps shape sound health care policy but also ensures that the interests of physicians and patients remain front and center in Washington, DC.

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Rose Ramirez, MD

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Robert Goldberg, DO

Oklahoma
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INAUGURAL ADDRESS: Willie Underwood III, MD, MSc, MPH was inaugurated as the 181th President of the American Medical Association on Tuesday, June 10, 2026. Following is his inaugural address entitled, "A Change is Gonna Come."

Good evening.
David, thank you for that gracious introduction. And thank you, Tina, for that rendition of "A Change Is Gonna Come." Man o' man, what a song! She brought that, didn't she?

To the distinguished guests, colleagues, mentors, friends and family gathered here tonight — welcome.

To the physician leaders seated behind me, thank you for your commitment to this profession we are privileged to call our own.

Tonight is special for me. But inaugurations are never just about one person.

They are moments that remind us how far we have come. How much we've sacrificed.
And the courage required for what comes next.

This moment may bear my name, but it was built by many hands and made possible by the people I love and appreciate…some who are in this room tonight.
My daughter, Amina, you are named after the great African warrior queen. And Kathryn, your middle name, is from my mother who was the essence of strength. In these names, you carry victory in your soul.
Through merger and acquisition with my wife Kadi, I gained two wonderful daughters, Sophia and Yasmeen, along with Yasmeen's amazing husband, Marcus.

Sophia, whose soul and spirit come through in her beautiful art. Yasmeen, whose strength and wisdom come from before antiquity. Marcus, your partnership with Yasmeen is what every man hopes for his daughter.

I'm blessed to be part of your lives and I can't wait to see what the future holds for each of you.

I have several in-laws here tonight: brothers and sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews-in-law, and my wonderful mother-in-law, Ina, who connects me to my home and the birth of civilization – Alkebulan. I love and appreciate you. I only wish my mother could have met you because you would have been the best of friends.

I am also joined by my loving and supportive older siblings Bernard, Yvette, and Major – each accomplished, successful, and making an impact in their industry and community.

You have always been my heroes.

My nieces, nephews, cousins and friends from every aspect of my life, including my childhood friend and brother Nathaniel, his wife, Latonya, and my godson, Naeem. Thank you.

I'm thankful for the Morehouse men here tonight. And those who are not. Men who understand that true greatness means being steadfast, honest and true in all things. Thank you, President F. DuBois Bowman for being here.

To my fraternity brothers, the men of Kappa Alpha Psi, Pi Chapter, thank you for living the example of "Achievement in every field of human endeavor."

I wouldn't be here without the efforts of my campaign team, as well as those who sponsored me, those who endorsed me, and every champion who rallied on the ground, behind the scenes, and every place in between. I am forever grateful.

To my village, and if you are going to go anywhere in life, you need one:

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Dr. Thomas J. Blocker

Dr. JK Haynes

Dr. Gregory Threatte

Dr. Louis Brown

Dr. Peter Deckers

Dr. Art Tarantino

Dr. Kunie Odunsi

Dr. Wesley Hicks

Each of these men, in their own way, made me the physician I am today.
And to my attorneys from Wigdor Law: Michael Willimen and Jeanne Christensen, thank you for your relentless advocacy for what is right and what is just.

This village has played a significant role in building the man standing before you. They have helped me understand that leadership is not what we achieve alone but what we build together.
To my beautiful wife, Kadi – thank you.

Thank you for your partnership. Your vision. And your enduring support. You have stood beside me during moments of clarity and uncertainty. Sweetheart, thank you for bringing joy to my heart. I love you more than words could ever express. You make me a better man!
Tonight, if I can be very real with you, when I think about the House of Medicine, I think about my own home. Not long ago, I purchased a 120-year-old home in Buffalo. Over the last few years, the house has revealed the decisions made by generations of previous owners – some which leave me scratching my head.
Why would you ever paint over original mahogany hardwood floors? I think about the beauty buried beneath the paint and the character that was lost. It really irks me.
But here's what I've learned:

When you buy an old house, you inherit everything that comes with it.

Its beauty.
Its craftsmanship.
Its history.

But also, its cracks.
Its weaknesses.
The hidden issues behind the walls.

Whether you created those problems or not, once the house belongs to you; **you own it**.

That is true for the House of Medicine - and our country.

Tonight, as the 181st president of the AMA, I am a steward of its past, its present and its future. I stand here fully aware of both the extraordinary strengths of this institution and the painful parts of its history.

Without question, the AMA has shaped modern medicine in countless ways. The AMA has given voice to the needs of physicians and patients and helped define the standards that influence medical care today.

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But that influence carries enormous responsibility — not only to lead our profession but help determine its future. That means recognizing progress - but also confronting the parts of our history that fell short of our values.

Part of that past is the exclusion of qualified Black physicians and other minorities from membership in this organization — before the Civil War, and a century afterward.
We cannot build the future of medicine honestly without acknowledging that history directly.

Just like an old home, when the foundation is damaged, we do not walk away from it — we come together to repair it.

We lead with honesty about the past. We walk with courage in the present. We work to rebuild a profession that is stronger, more just, and more resilient for those who will follow us.

You see the men and women sitting behind me? Each of these leaders – these trailblazers – have shown us what can and must be done.

Among them are:

Nancy Dickey

Robert Wah

Patrice Harris

Jesse Ehrenfeld

Bobby Mukkamala

They represent historic firsts for the AMA, across race, orientation, and gender – but they are more than milestones. Their leadership represents the promise of our country and the responsibility of this profession.

Because diversity of people, and ideas, and culture is more than a moment in time - it is a message for the future.

Leadership is everywhere.
Leadership is ALL of us.

From major hospital systems and independent practices.
From small communities often overlooked.
And sometimes…from a stuttering child growing up in Gary, Indiana.

Yes, you heard correct.

I stuttered.

As I think about that, it takes me back.
For multiple reasons – some rooted in circumstance, others in assumption – the education system undervalued me. I was told I was not suited for college, and teachers said I would be in jail by the time I was 19.

My best friend of nearly 50 years, Nathaniel Turner, who is on the stage this evening, was one of the few people that I could share my dreams with. He helped me to see a future that the world did not see.
Or chose not to.

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Today, that same voice that once stuttered and was overlooked and undervalued, now speaks as an advocate for patients and physicians around the world.
He now speaks as president of the American Medical Association!
Tonight, I am thinking about the matriarchs who had a vision for my life.

My mother, the late Kathryn Betts
My grandmother, the late Mattie Upshaw
My two aunts, the late Joyce Johnson – AND my Aunt Jo Ann Betts who is here tonight.

One day, they called me into a room. At 10 years old, when four women call you into a room, and one of them is your mother, you are in **trouble**.

My cousin went in first. He came out looking stunned. Then they called me in. My aunt looked me directly in the eye and said:

"Willie, we need a doctor and a lawyer in the family. Your cousin is going to be the lawyer. What does that make you?"

Not, "Would you like to become a doctor?"

Not, "Have you considered medicine?"

No.

"Your options are doctor or lawyer, and one is already taken."

"We need you to be a doctor."

And yes, my cousin did become a lawyer. Apparently, neither of us had a say in the matter.

But as I grew older, I realized something profound about that moment.

They were not simply choosing a career for me.
They were responding to what they saw around us.

Four women sitting in a room decided that society needed something better.

They understood, what I had not learned yet – that our family needed an advocate in the health care system. Not only for us. But for our community.

For people whose voices too often went unheard. For people navigating a system that did not always see them, or value them, or serve them equally.

It was my grandfather who showed me what <u>kind</u> of physician I should become.

My grandfather was a World War II veteran who ran a small business on the West Side of Chicago. Not far from where I stand tonight. When I visited him as a child, I saw things that I did not fully understand.
Neighborhoods where people couldn't get the care they needed.
Communities where opportunities were scarce.
Families who were forced to make impossible choices between food, medicine and rent.

I saw inequity not as an academic concept but as everyday life.

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And honestly, it made me uncomfortable. But I learned that discomfort is sometimes the subconscious trying to wake us up …

and open our eyes to the reality around us.

When my grandfather talked about my future as a doctor, he didn't talk about prestige.

He never talked about titles.
Or money.
Not once.

He talked about responsibility.

He said, "Be a physician for the least of these."

Not only for people who look like you. But for those who need you most.

And then he told me something I have never forgotten.

He said, "If you are not willing to be that kind of doctor, we don't need you to be a doctor at all."

I carried those lessons to Morehouse, along with the Bible my grandmother gave me. Of all the books I studied at Morehouse, that was the first — in fact it's the very same Bible I placed my hand on when I took the oath of office moments ago.

At Morehouse, I learned to burn the midnight oil and be the candle in the dark.

I learned that excellence is intentional …

that leadership without humanity is empty …

that my obligation is not merely to succeed, but to leave something stronger behind.

The path that led me to the AMA.

I'll admit, I was hesitant. Well, I was adamant about **not** joining the AMA. I struggled with the organization's history.

I wondered if there was a place for me. And people like me.

But then, I attended my first Interim Meeting in 1996 — just a year after Dr. Lonnie Bristow became the AMA's first Black president.

The meeting surprised me. Everywhere I looked, I saw physicians who had taken time away from their patients to advocate on their behalf. I heard debates and meaningful discussions about policy, science and research. I felt the energy in the room and was awed by the respect that colleagues – from so many different points of view – showed one another.

This was not the view of the AMA that I had.

And in that moment, I began to understand that medicine is not only what we do, but what we become when we stand together in service of something larger than ourselves.

I realized that the AMA was not simply a building, or a title, or an organization defined only by its past. It was a house — still standing, still under renovation.

A house with extraordinary craftsmanship in some places… and deep cracks in others.

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A house that had opened doors for many, while closing them to others for far too long.

But I also realized something else.

Houses do not become stronger because people stand outside pointing at the damage.
A house is strengthened when courageous people step inside, tell the truth about what needs repair, and commit themselves to rebuilding – brick by brick.

Today, the work of building a system that works for everyone remains urgent. Because the cracks in our health system are no longer small fractures hidden behind the walls — they are structural failures affecting lives every single day.

Families are struggling to access basic care. Communities are losing physicians faster than they can replace them. Patients are delaying treatment until illness becomes a crisis simply because they cannot afford it. And far too many physicians are burned out by a system that demands more while giving us less.

This is NOT sustainable.

And deep down, America knows it.

When outcomes are determined more by ZIP code than diagnosis, the system is failing its promise.

That is why conversations about health equity matter.

It's not about **that** family.
It's about **our family**.
And our family is the **American family**.

And yet today, there is growing pressure to avoid difficult conversations about gaps in care, unequal outcomes, and the barriers too many patients face.

But ignoring cracks in the foundation does not make the house stronger. It makes collapse inevitable.

This moment calls for courage.
To remember the oath we took.
And the purpose we serve.
And the lives we are called to change.

Medicine has always been about **people**.
And our ability, not simply to do right, but to do good.

We must understand that we are the AmeriCAN Medical Association.
Not the AmeriCAN'T Medical Association.

We can solve what's broken.
We can build what's missing.
We can create what's next.

These are not abstract ideas based on theory.
These are lived realities that I understand as a physician and as a patient. I am a proud prostate cancer survivor, fourteen years and counting. Thank you, Dr. Jean Joseph.

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I know what it means to hear life-altering news.

I know the fear that comes with not knowing if a treatment will work.

I know what it means to place your trust in a physician during the most vulnerable moments of your life — and pray their hands, and God, will heal you.

I'm not telling you what I've read. I'm telling you what I've lived.

I remember the days immediately after my diagnosis, lifting my young daughter from her crib and holding her just a little longer, wondering whether I would live long enough to watch her grow up.

As a urologist, I knew the statistics. I knew Black men faced higher risk, later diagnosis, and worse outcomes.

But serious illness has a way of changing how you look at obstacles, and how you search for answers in midst of a storm. Every day that you're able to live through it is day of grace and a chance to do something better, even remarkable, with the life you have been given.
At every stage, I am driven by the lessons my grandfather taught me and the vision my mother, aunts and grandmother had for me. They told me that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness – and justice for all – does indeed, include **all of us**.
Period. Without exception.
Tonight, I'm thinking of my mother's struggle during childbirth to bring me into this world. Her doctors told her there was a significant chance she might die during childbirth.
I'm thinking of the times that she had more month than money.
I'm thinking about the prostate cancer that tried to derail me.

I'm thinking about the barriers, backlash, and hostility I faced as an employed physician – but overcame with the help of fierce advocates and scrappy friends.

Despite these setbacks, frustrations and CANCER, I am still standing.
I am still fighting.
I am not done.
I'm just getting started.

Don't let **anyone** tell you that your destiny is out of reach.

Don't let others' negative perceptions or life's challenges derail you.

What's inside of you is greater than any obstacles in front of you.

Years ago, I met Dr. Lonnie Bristow at an inauguration gala. We shared our mutual respect for Frank Staggerd, urologist and past president of the California Medical Association. We talked about Bristow's historic rise as the first Black president of the AMA and the first AMA president elected from a specialty, the American College of Physicians.
I thanked him for his time and leadership and walked off. But he called me back. He pulled me to him and he whispered, "I was keeping that seat warm for you."
So now let me say this to every young physician, every resident, every medical student, and every child watching tonight and wondering whether there is a place for them in medicine and in the AMA.
I'm keeping this seat warm for you.

Let us use our voices not to echo what has always been, but to build what must come next.
A system that doesn't just work for SOME of us. But a system that works for the SUM of us.

A health care system with dignity.
A system that leaves no one behind.

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The world is waiting for us to rise up, to stand up, and to speak out.

We can!
We must!
And we will!

Thank you.

Now, let’s go make history.

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