

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: (Assigned by HOD)  
(A-26)

Introduced by: Organized Medical Staff Section

Subject: Publicizing, Supporting, and Promoting (Appropriate) AMA Member  
Physicians and Physician Spouses as Candidates for Local and State Offices

Referred to: Reference Committee (Assigned by HOD)

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- 1 Whereas, medicine is under assault from all sides—from insurance companies to trial lawyers to  
2 onerous state and federal regulations; and  
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- 4 Whereas, the 118<sup>th</sup> United States Congress enacted 209 public laws, which contrasts with  
5 approximately 16,000 items of state legislation passed annually<sup>1,2,3</sup>; and  
6
- 7 Whereas, we do not have enough physicians in political office on the local, state, or federal  
8 levels and in general there may be some benefit to supporting “medicine-friendly” physicians  
9 and physician spouses who run for political office; and  
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- 11 Whereas, our medical societies have political action committees, such as AMPAC for the AMA,  
12 to support “medicine-friendly” candidates running for office; and  
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- 14 Whereas, AMPAC holds an annual “Candidate Workshop” and “Campaign School” to support  
15 “medicine-friendly” candidates running for elected offices<sup>4</sup>; and  
16
- 17 Whereas, there are few mechanisms to enable physician members of our state and national  
18 medical societies to network when running for state and federal office; and  
19
- 20 Whereas, partly due to high educational debt loads, busy clinical schedules, challenges with  
21 work-life balance, and limited bandwidth to engage in political activity, physicians have  
22 traditionally had a low level of giving to candidates for local, state, and federal offices; and  
23
- 24 Whereas, those of us who have more time than money could potentially help candidates for  
25 elected office with social media support (retweeting, likes, etc.) and/or volunteer time; and  
26
- 27 Whereas, “medicine-friendly” candidates for political office would be interested in meeting  
28 potential donors, as well as individuals who may be willing to volunteer to support their  
29 campaigns with volunteer time and social media support; and  
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- 31 Whereas, there is currently no “central repository” that lists physicians or physician spouses  
32 running for state and federal office in the United States; and  
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- 34 Whereas, non-member physicians or physician spouses who are running for local, state, or  
35 federal office should also be encouraged to join the AMA, Alliance, and/or their state and  
36 specialty medical societies; and  
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1 Whereas, in this age of social media, it should be relatively easy to set up members-only  
2 websites with lists of appropriate physicians and physician spouses who are running for elected  
3 offices; and  
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5 Whereas, in the first version of this resolution submitted to the Missouri State Medical  
6 Association in 2024 two major concerns were raised: (1) potential legal implications, regarding  
7 coordination between state PACs, specialty society PACs and AMPAC, as well as (2) desire not  
8 to endorse physician candidates if they are not aligned with the policies of their state medical  
9 association and/or our AMA; and  
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11 Whereas, similar concerns were raised when a second version of this resolution was submitted  
12 to the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) in 2025, including:

- 13 • “An individual’s campaign should do the work. Not every physician aligns with OSMA  
14 policy.”
- 15 • “Promoting specific physician or spouses as candidates risk alienating OSMA members  
16 with differing political views.”
- 17 • “It is more appropriate for OSMA to connect its members with opportunities to learn  
18 about candidacy”;

19 And  
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21 Whereas, recent events in Minnesota highlight the courage of anyone running for (and/or  
22 holding) local or state elected office(s), as they and their families are constantly in the spotlight  
23 and potentially at risk; and  
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25 Whereas, given limited resources and bandwidth, it is likely that this proposal will need to be a  
26 collaborative effort between organized medicine and/or their respective political action  
27 committees; and  
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29 Whereas, it is unclear whether publicizing, supporting, and promoting such candidates should  
30 be a function of organized medicine (state and specialty societies and our AMA) versus their  
31 respective political action committees due to legal concerns, tax implications, etc.; and  
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33 Whereas, state and specialty societies or our AMA may also determine that certain physicians  
34 or physician spouses who are running for elected office may not merit recognition; and  
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36 Whereas, state and specialty societies or our AMA may also determine that certain words or  
37 actions of individuals running for elected office should merit removal from such lists; and  
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39 Whereas, there is already the National Council of State Legislatures and perhaps our AMA may  
40 wish to consider helping to organize a “National Convention of Physician and Physician Spouse  
41 State Legislators,” perhaps in conjunction with the annual AMA State Advocacy Summit;  
42 therefore be it  
43

44 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association, to the extent permitted by applicable laws,  
45 collaborate with other interested organizations to facilitate opportunities for AMA physician-  
46 member and physician-spouse elected officials at the local and state levels to connect,  
47 exchange ideas, collaborate, and support each other to protect our patients and our practices,  
48 such as with a “National Meeting of Physician State Legislators” (Directive to Take Action); and  
49 be it further  
50

51 RESOLVED, that our AMA study the:

- 1 1. Feasibility of collaborating with state medical societies and specialty societies to assess  
2 appropriate AMA physician members and physician spouses running for state and local  
3 offices and creating a “master list” to publicize, support, and promote those individuals,  
4 and
- 5 2. Opportunities to publicize this list widely to support appropriate physicians and physician  
6 spouses who are aligned with our priorities and encourage financial and social medial  
7 support of those candidates,  
8 with a report back at the 2027 Annual Meeting (Directive to Take Action).
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Fiscal Note: (Assigned by HOD)

**REFERENCES**

1. Presentation on “Overview of State Legislatures, Policy, and Politics” at 2025 AMA State Advocacy Summit; Carlsbad, CA. Fri 10 Jan 2025
2. Presentation on “A Conversation with State Legislators” at 2025 AMA State Advocacy Summit; Carlsbad, CA. Fri 10 Jan 2025
3. “Statutes at Large and Public Laws” at congress.gov: <https://www.congress.gov/public-laws/118th-congress>; accessed 1/11/25
4. AMPAC Candidate Workshop and Campaign School, at <https://www.ampaonline.org/political-education/candidate-workshop-and-campaign-school-application>; accessed 1/11/25

**RELEVANT AMA POLICY**

**Encourage Physicians as Legislative Candidates G-640.025**

1. Our American Medical Association will continue to identify, encourage, and support physicians to run as state and national legislative candidates.
2. Our AMA will not use AMA corporate treasury funds to engage in.

Citation: Res. 605, A-14; Consolidated with G-645.015: CCB/CLRDP Rep. 01, A-24