

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION ORGANIZED MEDICAL STAFF SECTION

Resolution: 5
(I-25)

Introduced by: Albert L. Hsu, MD

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

Referred to: OMSS Reference Committee
(xxxx, MD, Chair)

Whereas, medicine is under assault from all sides—from insurance companies to trial lawyers to onerous state and federal regulations; and

Whereas, the 118th United States Congress enacted 209 public laws, which contrasts with approximately 16,000 items of state legislation passed annually^{1,2,3}; and

Whereas, we do not have enough physicians in political office on the local, state, or federal levels and in general there may be some benefit to supporting “medicine-friendly” physicians and physician spouses who run for political office; and

Whereas, our medical societies have political action committees, such as AMPAC for the AMA, to support “medicine-friendly” candidates running for office; and

Whereas, AMPAC holds an annual “Candidate Workshop” and “Campaign School” to support “medicine-friendly” candidates running for elected offices⁴; and

Whereas, there are few mechanisms to enable physician members of our state and national medical societies to network when running for state and federal office; and

Whereas, partly due to high educational debt loads, busy clinical schedules, challenges with work-life balance, and limited bandwidth to engage in political activity, physicians have traditionally had a low level of giving to candidates for local, state, and federal offices; and

Whereas, those of us who have more time than money could potentially help candidates for elected office with social media support (retweeting, likes, etc.) and/or volunteer time; and

Whereas, “medicine-friendly” candidates for political office would be interested in meeting potential donors, as well as individuals who may be willing to volunteer to support their campaigns with volunteer time and social media support; and

Whereas, there is currently no “central repository” that lists physicians or physician spouses running for state and federal office in the United States; and

Whereas, non-member physicians or physician spouses who are running for local, state, or federal office should also be encouraged to join the AMA, Alliance, and/or their state and specialty medical societies; and

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
10

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
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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
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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); and be it further
9
- 10 RESOLVED, that our AMA-OMSS forward this resolution to the American Medical Association
11 House of Delegates for consideration at the 2026 Annual Meeting (Directive to Take Action).
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Fiscal Note: (Assigned by HOD)

Received: 10/3/2025

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.

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