

1 **PENNSYLVANIA DELEGATION TO THE AMA**

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3 The Pennsylvania Delegation to the AMA actively represented this House at the Interim 2016 and  
4 Annual 2017 meetings of the AMA House of Delegates. This report contains a summary of our  
5 activities since our last report to this House.

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7 **RESOLUTIONS UPDATE**

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9 AMA Interim Meeting 2016 (I-16)

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11 Three resolutions authored by the Pennsylvania Delegation were submitted for consideration at  
12 the AMA Interim meeting in November 2016:

- 13 • Resolution 606-I-16: Promote Teen Health Week: The AMA adopted this resolution to  
14 promote Teen Health Week 2017 and to encourage this practice annually across the  
15 nation.
- 16 • Resolution 607-I-16: Analysis of American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM)  
17 Finances: The AMA’s reference committee recommended referral for the decision on  
18 this resolution. The AMA House of Delegates adopted a resolution to formally request  
19 that ABIM allow an independent organization to conduct an open audit of the finances of  
20 both the ABIM and its Foundation.
- 21 • Resolution 820-I-16: Retrospective Payment Denial of Medically Appropriate Studies,  
22 Procedures and Testing: This resolution called for the AMA to advocate for legislation to  
23 require insurers’ medical policies to reflect current evidence-based medically appropriate  
24 studies and treatments, to implement a stream-lined process for exceptions and to prohibit  
25 insurers from using medical coding as sole justification to deny medical services and  
26 testing. The AMA’s reference committee recommended that the resolution not be  
27 adopted. The AMA House of Delegates referred the resolution and stipulated a report  
28 back to the 2017 Annual meeting.

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30 AMA Annual Meeting 2017 (A-17)

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32 Two resolutions authored by the Pennsylvania Delegation were submitted to the AMA Annual  
33 meeting in June:

- 34 • Resolution 001-A-17: Participation on Healthcare Organization Boards: The AMA  
35 House of Delegates adopted an amended resolution to advocate for and promote the  
36 membership of physicians on the boards of healthcare organizations and to provide  
37 information on the positive impact of physician leadership.
- 38 • Resolution 604-A-17: High Cost to Authors for Open Source Peer Reviewed  
39 Publications: This resolution calls for the AMA to investigate the high dollar costs open  
40 source publications rules and to correct the imbalance of knowledge suppression based  
41 solely on financial considerations. The House of Delegates referred this resolution.

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43 Pennsylvania signed on to Resolution 115-A-17: Out-of-Network Care authored by the Section  
44 Council on Emergency Medicine. The AMA Reference Committee considered this resolution  
45 along with three other resolutions (105, 118 and 127) regarding out-of-network insurance billing.  
46 The AMA reaffirmed Policies H-165.839, H-373.998, H-285.911 and H-285.908, created Policy  
47 H-285.904 and authorized development of model state legislation addressing the coverage of and  
48 payment for out-of-network care.

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50 Additionally, Pennsylvania signed onto a resolution authored by Florida (Resolution 316-A-17:  
51 Action Steps Regarding Maintenance of Certification) which called on the AMA to: 1) affirm that  
52 lifelong learning is a fundamental obligation of our profession (Adopted by AMA House of  
53 Delegates); 2) recognize that lifelong learning for a physician is best achieved by ongoing

1 participation in a program of high quality continuing medical education appropriate to that  
2 physician's medical practice (Adopted as Amended); 3) develop model state legislation that  
3 would bar hospitals, health care insurers and the state medical licensing board from using non-  
4 participation in the ABMS sponsored MOC process using lifelong, interval, high stakes testing as  
5 exclusionary criteria for credentialing (Reaffirmed AMA Policy D-275.954 (34)); 4) join with  
6 state medical associations and specialty societies in directly lobbying state medical licensing  
7 boards, hospital associations and health care insurers to adopt policy supporting the use of  
8 satisfactory demonstration of lifelong learning with high quality CME (Referred); and 5) partner  
9 with state medical associations and specialty societies to undertake a study with the goal of  
10 establishing a program that will certify physicians as satisfying the requirements for continuation  
11 of their specialty certification by successful demonstration of lifelong learning utilizing high  
12 quality CME (Referred).

## 13 14 **DELEGATION ACTIVITY**

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16 Delegation members participated in three meetings since our last update to the PAMED House:

### 17 18 AMA Interim Meeting 2016 (I-16)

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20 Pennsylvania ably represented this House of Delegates at the 2016 Interim meeting in Orlando,  
21 Florida. In addition to testifying on the many issues before the AMA House, highlights of the  
22 November meeting included:

- 23 • Great Lakes States Coalition reference committee reviews via teleconference prior to the  
24 Interim meeting and an onsite review on Sunday morning;
- 25 • Thorough review of the reports and resolutions during delegation caucus sessions, to  
26 include all business items submitted from the AMA sections (OMSS, IMG, YPS, RFS,  
27 MSS);

### 28 29 Spring Telephone Conference 2017

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31 The delegation held its 2017 spring teleconference on April 25<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the AMA Annual  
32 meeting in June. We reviewed the Annual meeting schedule, the Great Lakes States Coalition  
33 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania) handbook review process,  
34 reference committees, group assignments and the Resolutions Committee report. The upcoming  
35 election candidates were also discussed; there are no PA Delegation members running for  
36 election in 2017.

### 37 38 AMA Annual Meeting 2017 (A-17)

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40 Pennsylvania expertly represented the PAMED House of Delegates at the AMA's Annual  
41 meeting in June. Highlights of the meeting included:

- 42 • Joint Great Lakes States Coalition reference committee reviews held prior to the meeting  
43 via an electronic process and an onsite review during the meeting;
  - 44 • Great Lakes States Coalition interviews for AMA Officer, Trustee and Council positions;
  - 45 • Great Lakes States Coalition networking breakfast for delegates, alternates, and staff;
  - 46 • Thorough review of the reports and resolutions during delegation caucus sessions, to  
47 include all business items submitted from the AMA sections (OMSS, IMG, YPS, RFS,  
48 MSS);
  - 49 • Great Lakes States Coalition reception honoring its endorsed candidates for AMA office;
  - 50 • PA-hosted MOC meeting;
  - 51 • Presentation of Slate for Internal Nominating Committee: Dr. Schmeltz, Dr. Williams and  
52 Dr. Vasudevan.
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1 **RETIREMENTS FROM THE DELEGATION**

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3 The delegation has expressed its overwhelming and sincere appreciation to the following  
4 members who retired at the end of 2016:

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- 6 • Gretchen Evans (AMA Region 6 Alternate Delegate)
- 7 • Michael A. Loesche (Student Position - Alternate Delegate)
- 8 • Kishan M. Thadikonda (AMA Region 6 Delegate)
- 9 • Jane A. Weida, MD (Alternate Delegate)



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11 James A. Goodyear, MD

12 Chair