

# MMA Activities Focused on Health System Reform

Since the Presidential election last Fall, MMA has made comprehensive health system reform a priority. Using the 2003 MMA White Paper on Reform as the foundation for our advocacy activities (endorsing coverage for all through an individual mandate), MMA has carried out the following specific activities:

- **December 30** - Convened Public Listening Session on healthcare reform for presidential transition team.
- **April 7** - Hosted "Listening Session" with Senator Olympia Snowe, attended by over twenty-five organizations representing a variety of stakeholders.
- **June 15** - MMA's AMA delegation heard President Obama address AMA House of Delegates in Chicago.
- **July 2** - Hosted "Listening Session" at MMA with First District Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, with twenty-eight organizations participating.
- **August 28** - Participated in event with Second District Congressman Rep. Michael Michaud in Bangor.
- **September 3** - Participated in event with HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius at University of Maine, Orono. MMA President Stephanie Lash, MD presented.
- **September 16** - Participated in Androscoggin County Medical Society Forum.
- **October 19** - Richard Evans, M.D., one of Maine's two AMA delegates, meets at the White House with President Obama and participates in an event with the President in the Rose Garden, promoting reform.

During October, MMA staff was in frequent contact with staff to Senator Snowe and Senator Collins, as the Senate Finance Committee continued its work.

From June through November, MMA staff has participated in nearly weekly conference calls with the AMA Washington office. These nationwide conference calls gave all fifty state medical societies the opportunity to hear directly from AMA lobbyists on the hill. We informed MMA members and their staffs of the work going on around reform through articles in the *Weekly Update* and in *Maine Medicine*.

MMA has been successful in getting several op ed articles published, including articles by Dr. Jo Linder in the *Portland Press Herald*, Dr. David McDermott, M.D., MPH in the *Bangor Daily News* and EVP Gordon Smith, Esq., in the *Kennebec Journal*.

Our work is certainly not done. We would like to host a "listening session" with Sen. Susan Collins. And we will continue to advocate for passage of a comprehensive reform bill that covers all Americans and provides appropriate incentives to practice quality medicine.

A health reform section is currently being constructed on the MMA website. The section will provide frequent updates on the situation in Washington and will also link to several other sites that provide up-to-date information. Keep informed of developments by accessing the website at [www.mainemed.com](http://www.mainemed.com) and by taking advantage of the many opportunities to learn that are available to you. And your input is always welcome. Contact [president@mainemed.com](mailto:president@mainemed.com) or Gordon Smith, EVP at [gsmith@mainemed.com](mailto:gsmith@mainemed.com).



*Richard Evans, MD greets President Obama in the Rose Garden, October 19, 2009.*



*U.S. Senator Olympia J. Snowe, April 7th, with staff William Pewen on left and MMA EVP Gordon Smith on right.*



*First District Congresswoman Chellie Pingree at MMA's July 2nd "Listening Session"*