

## **President Obama Scheduled to Visit Maine this Thursday**

As you are aware, after signing the federal health care reform legislation, President Obama will be traveling the country to explain to voters the benefits of health care reform. In conjunction with an apparent fundraising trip to Boston, the President is scheduled to be in Maine this Thursday, April 1st to participate in a health care reform event with Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, a strong supporter of the reform effort. The MMA knows little about the President's visit, but you may sign up for more information about the visit as it becomes available on Congresswoman Pingree's web site: <http://pingree.house.gov/obama/>. Described as *The Unabashed Liberal*, Congresswoman Pingree is one of 6 House members from around the country profiled in the aftermath of the health care reform vote following an article in today's New York Times by Adam Nagourney. The President's visit is scheduled for the Portland area.

The national health care reform debate continued in Washington, D.C. last week with the debate on the health care reform reconciliation bill, H.R. 4872. This bill makes changes to the new health care reform law, the *Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act* (Pub. L. No. 111-148). On Thursday, March 25th, the Senate voted 56-43 in favor of the reconciliation bill with 3 Democrats joining all Republicans. The House voted for passage that same day by a vote of 220-207. The President is scheduled to sign H.R. 4872 tomorrow.

The AMA has produced a document entitled, *How the Passage of Federal Health System Reform Legislation Impacts Your Practice* on the web at: <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/health-system-reform/hsr-impacts-practice.shtml>.

The White House web site also has information about health care reform here: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/healthreform>.