



## MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Jo E. Linder, MD *President* • Nancy M. Cummings, MD *President-Elect* • Kenneth Christian, MD *Chair, Executive Committee*  
Gordon H. Smith, Esq. *Executive Vice President* • Andrew B. MacLean, Esq. *Deputy Executive Vice President*

September 23, 2010

Ardis Hoven, MD  
Chair, AMA Board of Trustees  
American Medical Association  
515 North State Street  
Chicago, IL 60610

Dear Dr. Hoven:

The Executive Committee of the Maine Medical Association met recently at the Association's 157<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, and reviewed and discussed the action of the Florida Medical Association expressing a lack of confidence in the current leadership of the American Medical Association. At a time when it is critically important for physicians, as a profession, to stand together, this action threatens the very principles that our AMA was founded upon. The fifty state medical societies as well as the national medical specialty service societies are the AMA. The actions of each component can impact dramatically on the whole organization and its ability to effectively advocate for physicians and the patients they serve.


The AMA is a democratic organization and each component society has an opportunity to impact the election of the Board of Trustees and the officers. In a democratic process, it is incumbent upon constituents to support their elected leaders, as those leaders do their best to implement the adopted policies and goals of the whole organization. A football team whose members brawl among themselves will not win. A country whose elections are followed by secession attempts will not survive. A divided medical community will not be relevant. The upcoming rulemaking process is an opportunity, which may not be seen again for decades. Now is not the time to squander our influence in petty bickering.

The past two years have been an extraordinarily challenging period for organized medicine. We wish to express our support and gratitude for the AMA Board's efforts in carrying out the policies advanced by the House of Delegates. We know how difficult it is to form policy into the law of the land. And we understand the complexities of health system reform.


Perhaps in 2010, it is simply not possible to effectively speak for physicians with one voice, given the wide disparity of interests. And we hope that all the state and medical specialties will passionately advocate for their view of what is important for physicians and our patients and stand together once the debate is over and policy is established. The Maine Medical Association is prepared to do that.

Thank you for all you do each day for America's physicians, and we have confidence that those elected to serve our interests are doing so to the best of their ability. We stand with you in support of the policies of the House.

Sincerely yours,



Kenneth Christian, MD  
Chair  
Executive Committee



Jo E. Linder, MD  
President