

March 2016

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to you today as an orthopaedic colleague and president-elect of the American Medical Association (AMA). As a private practice, orthopaedic hand surgeon, I understand the challenges that you face as part of our profession. I want you to know that the AMA is making great strides forward on issues important to *our* profession and want to share with you some recent examples of what the AMA is doing to help physicians like you and me.

With the AMA's leadership, organized medicine was able to repeal the Sustainable Growth Rate in 2015, eliminating cuts in Medicare reimbursement. We have pressed the government to improve and align current requirements for quality, electronic health records, and Meaningful Use requirements. The AMA has also been an effective voice for physicians on a broad range of issues, including public health, patient safety, reducing regulatory burden and prescription drug abuse and addiction.

This past November the AMA House of Delegates (HOD) passed a resolution introduced by the American Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society (AOFAS), American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS) and supported by a number of state medical associations calling for the AMA to advocate for equity in graduate medical education funding. The intent of this effort is to fix an anomaly in the law that allows uncapped funding for podiatric training while GME funding for physicians is capped.

Through its Scope of Practice Partnership, the AMA develops resources to support the work of state medical associations and specialty societies in advocating against inappropriate scope of practice expansion by non-physicians.

These are just some of the many issues the AMA is working on to help orthopaedic physicians. It is to this end that I urge you to activate your AMA membership for 2016. As an AMA member, you will strengthen AOFAS's representation at the national level through the AMA HOD, the AMA's policymaking body, and enhance our ability to meet the current challenges in health care.

To activate your membership, please visit ama-assn.org or call (800) 262-3211.

Sincerely,



Andrew W. Gurman, MD