

**Missouri State Medical Association
House of Delegates**

Resolution # 15
(A-24)

Introduced by: Albert L. Hsu, MD

Subject: Supporting Physician Candidates for Public Office

Referred to:

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- 1 **WHEREAS**, it is increasingly clear that medicine is under assault from all sides – from insurance
2 companies to trial lawyers to onerous state and federal regulation, and we should support our physician
3 members who run for office; and,
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- 5 **WHEREAS**, we do not have enough physicians in political office, on either the state or federal levels;
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- 8 **WHEREAS**, partly due to their high educational debt loads, physicians have traditionally had a low level
9 of giving to their candidates for state and political office; and,
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- 11 **WHEREAS**, our medical societies generally have political action committees (AMPAC for AMA, MPAC for
12 MSMA, similar organizations for national specialty societies) to support candidates running for office;
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- 15 **WHEREAS**, there are few mechanisms to enable physician members of our state and national medical
16 societies to network when running for state and federal office; and,
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- 18 **WHEREAS**, candidates for political office are interested in meeting potential donors, as well as
19 individuals who may be willing to volunteer to support their campaigns with their time and social media
20 support; and,
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- 22 **WHEREAS**, those of us who have more time than money can help our fellow physician candidates for
23 state and federal office with social media (retweeting, likes, etc) to support those candidates; and,
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- 25 **WHEREAS**, time is limited and precious at our AMA meetings, but at a recent meeting, the Heart of
26 America (HOA) caucus decided to allow candidates for (state or federal) political office to speak directly
27 to our caucus, provided that (1) they are invited by a member of the HOA delegation, (2) that the
28 physician running for political office be an AMA member, and (3) that all candidates for political office
29 coming to speak to the HOA delegation be limited to no more than 5 minutes of speaking time; and,
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- 31 **WHEREAS**, there is currently no “central repository” that lists physicians running for state and federal
32 office in the United States; and,
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- 34 **WHEREAS**, in this age of social media, it should be relatively easy to set up members-only websites with
35 lists of physician members of our state and specialty societies who are running for political offices, and,
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- 37 **WHEREAS**, non-member physicians who are running for state or federal office should be encouraged to
38 join the AMA and/or their state medical societies; therefore, be it,

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RESOLVED, that our Missouri State Medical Association (MSMA) and American Medical Association (AMA) create “members-only” pages on their websites that list its physician members that are running for state or federal offices (and wish to have that information publicly-available), with links to how to volunteer or donate to those campaigns; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, that our Missouri State Medical Association (MSMA) and American Medical Association (AMA) encourage other state and specialty societies to publicize their physician members that are running for state or federal offices (and wish to have that information publicly-available); and, be it further,

RESOLVED, that our Missouri State Medical Association (MSMA) and American Medical Association (AMA) encourage AMA sections and caucuses to consider establishing a policy or protocol, to allow (by invitation) AMA members running for state or federal offices to briefly address those groups directly, either virtually or in-person; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, that AMA report back on this issue (including an updated list of physician members who ran for state or federal office in 2024 and wish to have that information publicly available) at A-25; and, be it further,

RESOLVED, that our MSMA forward this resolution to the AMA at A-24.

Fiscal Note: None

Current Policy: