

Marvin S. Kaplan, MD, Alternate Delegate to AMA  
Report from AMA Annual Meeting  
Chicago, 2011

### Take Home Message

AMA committed to reform "Obama Care", ie ACA as follows rather than work to repeal.

Specific goals are as follows:

- 1) Repeal independent payment advisory board.
- 2) Repeal of the Medicare cost/quality
- 3) Enactment of comprehensive medical liability reform.
- 4) Enactment of long term medicare physician payment reform including patients to privately contract with physicians not participating in medicare program.
- 5) Enactment of anti-trust reform to permit independently practicing physicians to pre-collectively negotiate with health insurance companies.
- 6) Expand the use of the health savings accounts as a means to provide health insurance coverage.

Additionally, the AMA

- 1) Formed a committee to propose a replacement of the regional physician payments that depend on office location and practice expense.
- 2) Continue support of policy to permit balanced billing.
- 3) Defend the rights of physicians to speak out for quality and appropriate care of their patients at hospitals and employed by large groups.

Additional actions taken by 8 committees responding to resolutions and board and council recommendations totaling over 150 separate topics can be read on the AMA website at [www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org).

### LACMA Representatives Actively

- 1) Our four delegates, Debra Judelson, MD, Sidney Gold, MD, David Aizuss, MD and Arthur Lurvey, MD and three alternate delegates, Marcy Zwelling, MD, Scott Karlan, MD, Marvin Kaplan, MD attended and actively took part at the California Caucus, the reference committee hearings at the House of Delegates and in campaigning for Jim Hinsdale, our CMA President who ran successfully for a highly competitive seat on the Council for Medical Service which produced policy on our practice rules and inter actions with medicare, medicaid, and the private insurance companies. Each of our delegates were assigned to review two of the reference committees. All attendees attended multiple delegation receptions to

interact with over 1,000 delegates and alternates. Marcy Zwelling was a leader at the solo practice forum.

- 2) I attended a meeting on the economics of health care, medical school education, the resident matching program, AMA efforts to help with rapid, accurate and fair billing, and our AMA-ethical stands and activity and code, the women's council which discussed female medical student's problem with male mentors and the senior physicians group, where I am the California representative. The problems of returning to active clinical medical practice, both from an educational and licensing and credentialing background, was discussed. I participated extensively in discussions involving medical service and medical practice reference committees.

Marvin S. Kaplan, MD