



FOCUS

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To contact Iowa's national legislators,

click on their names or call them directly.

Rep Bruce Braley (D)

Waterloo, Dubuque, Davenport
202.225.2911

Rep Dave Loebsack (D)

Cedar Rapids, Iowa City,
Muscatine
202.225.6576

Rep Leonard Boswell (D)

Des Moines, Newton, Oskaloosa
202.225.3806

Rep Tom Latham (R)

Mason City, Ames, Fort Dodge
202.225.5476

Rep Steve King (R)

Spencer, Sioux City,
Council Bluffs
202.225.4426

Sen Chuck Grassley (R)

202.224.6020

Sen Tom Harkin (D)

202.224.9369

Supporting the family of medicine includes staying abreast of the American Medical Association's position on key advocacy issues. The following two articles are from the AMA's Web site and are included here with permission.

For breaking news, visit the [AMA Web site](#) and click on Advocacy and Health System Reform. Want to get more involved? Subscribe to the AMA's Health System Reform Bulletin and/or become a member of AMPAC, the bi-partisan political action committee of the AMA, which exists to elect candidates to the U.S. Congress.

The AMA Vision for Health System Reform

No one said that achieving meaningful health system reform this year was going to be easy. But tackling the tough challenges is something the American Medical Association (AMA) has been doing for 162 years.

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As the nation's largest organization representing physicians from every state and nearly every medical specialty—and the patients in their care—we are committed to achieving health system reform this year that:

- Protects the sacred relationship between patients and their physicians, without interference by insurance companies or the government
- Provides affordable health insurance for all through a choice of plans and eliminates denials for pre-existing conditions
- Promotes quality, prevention and wellness initiatives
- Repeals the Medicare physician payment system that harms seniors' access to care
- Eases the crushing weight of medical liability and insurance company bureaucracy

Physicians, patients, policymakers and others have found common ground on real health system improvements. Difficult issues must still be resolved. But it's time for results, not rhetoric. It's time to shift our focus from arguing about differences to working together to resolve them.

The status quo is unacceptable. America's patients and physicians deserve better. The AMA will press on until a better health system is a reality for all Americans.

AMA Affirms Support for Health Reform This Year

Comments from AMA President prior to President Obama's health reform press conference

For immediate release

July 22, 2009

Statement Attributable to: J. James Rohack, MD
President, American Medical Association

"At this historic moment for our nation, the AMA is working to improve our health care system for patients and physicians. We must fix what's broken and keep what's working.

"Health insurance for working families is disappearing along with job security - this is bad for the economy and bad for families.

"The status quo is unacceptable. The AMA has made clear its commitment to health reform this year. Congress must take action to expand coverage to the uninsured through a choice of plans and eliminate denials for pre-existing conditions, include prevention and wellness initiatives, address medical liability reform and repeal the broken Medicare physician payment system that harms seniors' access to care. Without repeal, physicians face payment cuts of nearly 40 percent over the next five years that will force them to limit the number of seniors they can treat - right as the baby boomers begin aging into Medicare.

"AMA will stay engaged to get a final bill this year that improves the system for patients and physicians signed into law. Physicians are at the heart of the health care system, and the AMA considers its position at the center of the health reform debate an honor and serious responsibility."

Alliance Opportunity: Offer feedback on proposed health care reform

As President of the AMA Alliance, I would like to assure you that while we recognize the need for health care reform, we know there is heated debate on how this should be accomplished. To that point, the Alliance has opened portals for feedback from AMA Alliance members on our web site via the new **President's Blog**, accessible on the Alliance home page at www.amaalliance.org in the lower left-hand side of the screen; the AMA Alliance Facebook page for members at www.facebook.com and called AMA Alliance; and the AMA Alliance thread on the Student Doctor Network at <http://forums.studentdoctor.net/showthread.php?p=8468510#post8468510>. We want to hear from our members and will gather and share their views with the AMA as they work to meet the challenge of health care reform. You can email us with your thoughts at healthcarereformfeedback@ama-assn.org.

For your information and use, I am including **AMA Support for H.R. 3200 - Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)** and **HSR Breaking News**.

Thank you for your Alliance leadership on this important issue in health care and for taking steps to ensure that members have the opportunity for feedback.

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Celebrate SAVE Today on October 14

How is your county planning to celebrate or honor this effort?

In its commitment to build healthy families and safe communities, the AMA Alliance created the Stop America's Violence Everywhere (SAVE). Now in its 13th year, SAVE combats the growing problem of violence. The Alliance offers a children's book series that includes the popular "You Don't Have To Be Bullied," "Hands Are Not for Hitting," "I Can Choose" and "I Can Be Healthy" activity books for children. Other publications cover elder abuse, parenting, stress, eating disorders, teen suicide and more.

Although the SAVE campaign is a year-round effort, the AMA Alliance celebrates SAVE Today on the second Wednesday of October. SAVE Today serves as a day when physicians' spouses across the country work together to reduce violence. In addition, it helps unify the efforts of state and county Alliances. Many Alliances use SAVE Today to kick-off new elements of their SAVE projects, such as working with a new school or a new age group.

Looking for ideas? The SAVE Planning Guide brings the entire spectrum of the SAVE initiative to light. No matter what aspect of violence prevention your Alliance or community group plans to focus on, this manual contains information that can help in your quest to make you community a safer place. It contains statistics, general information about violence, suggested prevention programs and ways to gain community awareness.

Taken from the AMA Alliance Web site under the category **Healthy Communities and Stop America's Violence Everywhere**

Call for Nominations: The Spirit of Hermina Award

The Spirit of Hermina Award nomination form is available on the [IMS Alliance Web page](#).

Submit nominations by September 1, 2009, to Dorothy Carpenter,
7 Larchwood Court, Newton, IA 50208

Questions? Call 641.792.3961 or email [Dorothy](#).

Plan to attend . . .

**IMS Alliance Fall Board Meeting
October 22
Marshalltown**

8th Annual Physicians Golf Challenge to Benefit IMS Education Fund

The Iowa Medical Society Education Fund invites you to an afternoon of fun and golf. The entry fee is \$250 per player and all proceeds will benefit the IMS Education Fund, which provides scholarships to medical students and funding for public health activities. Since its inception in 2002, the IMS Education Fund golf tournament has raised more than \$303,000.

Mark your calendar for Monday, September 28, 2009. The brochure for this event is posted on the [Iowa Medical Society Web site](#). Questions? Call Deb Potter at 515.223.1401 X202

Deadline to register is August 26, 2009.