



Policy Forum

Established in 2014, the IMS Policy Forum replaced the IMS House of Delegates as the primary policy-setting mechanism for the Iowa Medical Society. This model is designed to ensure a transparent and inclusive model for IMS members to call for organizational action.

Policy Request Statements

Policy Request Statements (PRS) are the formal requests submitted for consideration during the Policy Forum process. A PRS may seek to do any of the following:

Establish or Amend Organizational Policy	Pursue State or Federal Advocacy, Including Legislative Action	Submit a Resolution to the AMA House of Delegates	Amend the IMS Bylaws
Establish an IMS Task Force or Committee	Take an Organization Position	Pursue Organizational Action	Submit a Question to the IMS Membership

A PRS may be submitted at any time throughout the year, however, it will only be considered during the official Policy Forum periods each spring and fall. A sample PRS is available to guide authors in development of their requests. Staff and Board Liaisons are also available to assist in developing the strongest possible request for consideration.

Policy Forum Phases

Call for Action Period

The official “Call for Action” period begins seven weeks prior to each scheduled Policy Forum meeting and lasts for two weeks. During this time, members are invited to submit their ideas for a Policy Request Statement. Individuals interested submitting an idea should [contact staff](#) to begin the process. The Policy Forum Speaker will assign a Board Liaison to each PRS author, based upon the content of the request and individual board members’ areas of expertise. Board Liaisons and staff will work with the PRS author during this phase to develop the strongest Policy Request Statement possible.

Testimony Forum

The second phase is the Testimony Forum, which begins five weeks prior to each scheduled Policy Forum meeting. PRSs received during the Call for Action period are published on a secure page of the IMS website. Members have two weeks from the opening of the Testimony Forum phase to contribute testimony via members-only discussions on the IMS website or submit feedback privately via email. Members may also submit video testimony to be shared on the Testimony Forum discussion boards or at the Policy Forum meeting.

Policy Forum Meeting

The final phase is the Policy Forum meeting. At the meeting, all PRSs and accompanying Testimony Forum comments are considered by the Policy Forum. All IMS members are invited to attend the Policy Forum to engage in discussion and offer testimony, either live or via video, regarding the PRSs under consideration. Authors are invited to present their PRS to the Policy Forum members either live or via video, and answer members' questions about their request. Following the Public portion of this meeting, the Policy Forum members will convene in closed session to deliberate on each PRS and take action. PRS authors are notified of the Policy Forum's decision following the meeting.

While Policy Forums must be held at least once a year, they are regularly scheduled to be held once in the spring in conjunction with the Presidential Installation and again in the Fall. In addition, special sessions of the Policy Forum may be called as needed.

Policy Forum Actions

The Policy Forum may take the following actions with a Policy Request Statement:

1. Adopt the PRS as Written
2. Adopt the PRS with Amendment
3. Not Adopt the PRS
4. Reaffirm Existing IMS or AMA Policy in Lieu of all or Part of the PRS
5. Refer the PRS to a Committee or Task Force for Review & Recommendation to a Future Policy Forum

Anonymous Policy Forum Submissions

Recognizing the sensitive nature of some Policy Request Statements and the possibility that a member may not feel comfortable publicly raising an issue for consideration, in 2020 the IMS Board of Directors approved the development of an anonymous Policy Forum submission process. PRS authors wishing to anonymously submit an issue for consideration may select to have an IMS Board member or an IMS staff member serve as their public proxy during the Policy Forum process. Based upon the member's preference, the Policy Forum Speaker will assign a board member or staff member to work privately with the author to develop his or her PRS. Staff proxies will coordinate with the Board Liaison assigned to that Policy Request Statement. Board proxies will also serve as the PRS Board Liaison.

Board Liaisons

In 2020, the IMS Board of Directors approved the designation of Board Liaisons to work with PRS authors throughout the Policy Forum process. Board Liaisons are assigned by the Policy Forum Speaker, based upon individual board members' areas of expertise and the subject of the individual PRS. The Board Liaison will work with the PRS author to craft the strongest possible request, answer questions about the process, and advocate on the author's behalf during the Policy Forum's consideration.