

RESOLUTION

Subject: Proposal for the Kentucky Medical Association to Cover Medical Students' Membership Fees and Medical Student AMA Membership

Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, the University of Louisville (UofL) has a class size of 160 students, the University of Kentucky (UK) has 205 across all of its campuses and the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (KYCOM) has 145 students for a total of 510 students; and

WHEREAS, the cost of a four-year membership into the AMA is a one-time payment of \$68; and

WHEREAS, the cost for 510 students will initially cost \$34,680 annually; and

WHEREAS, the local AMA chapters propose returning the 35% AMA kickback to the KMA while keeping \$1,000 for each chapter for a total of returning \$9,138 back to the KMA; and

WHEREAS, the total annual cost to the KMA will be \$24,542 to fund this engagement experiment; and

WHEREAS, the KMA invests in developing the next generation of leaders who will shape the landscape of medicine in our state by engaging students early in their careers; and

WHEREAS, by increasing students' benefits and ties to the Kentucky medical community, more Kentucky-trained doctors will be retained in Kentucky to directly address Kentucky's shortage of doctors ; and

WHEREAS, the KMA ensures that all medical students have equal access to the professional development and networking benefits, regardless of their financial circumstances ; and

WHEREAS, the KMA advocates for policies that promote the interests of healthcare professionals and patients and strengthens its advocacy efforts with the inclusion of medical students; and

WHEREAS, the 2023-2024 KMA Policy Manual states:

"MEDICAL STUDENTS 1) Engagement in Organized Medicine: KMA works with the University of Louisville Medical School, the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, and the University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine to develop more on-campus KMA Medical Student Section (MSS) activities, including regularly scheduled organizational meetings, and the mentoring of medical students by KMA members of the Commission on Young Physicians and Physicians in Training and the

Resident & Fellow Section. KMA provides funding for one medical student from each of the University of Louisville Medical School, the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, and the College of Osteopathic Medicine in Pikeville to attend the Annual and Interim meetings of the AMA Medical School Section, if said funding is matched one-to-one by the Medical Schools. (Res 2014-07, 2014 HOD, p 330)”; and

WHEREAS, 9 ULSOM students expressed interest in attending the 2024 AMA Medical Advocacy Conference, but 5 students could not attend due to the cost of travel and lodging; and

WHEREAS, participation in the University of Louisville AMA/KMA chapter has increased since the pandemic, where 15 students attended 2024 KMA Physician’s Day at the Capitol compared to 7 students the previous year; 4 students attended 2024 AMA Medical Advocacy Conference compared to 2 students the previous year; and 3 students attended the 2023 AMA MSS Annual meeting compared to 1 student the previous year; and

WHEREAS, this effort would potentially increase the involvement of the campuses in the KMA House of Delegates and policy writing; and

WHEREAS, this effort would potentially increase the involvement of the campuses in local, state, and national healthcare policies; and

WHEREAS, this effort would definitely provide medical students with access to an included Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) to be more educated about the latest news and breakthroughs in medicine; and

WHEREAS, this would elevate Kentucky’s medical student involvement on the national stage through AMA conferences and Region 5 Medical Student Section (MSS) engagement; and

WHEREAS, the KMA emphasizes early engagement of medical students in organized medicine in order to develop the next generation of physician leaders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the KMA bylaws be amended as follows: “Chapter 1, Section 2(f): “Student Members. Any medical student in an accredited allopathic or osteopathic medical school in Kentucky shall be eligible for a subsidized four-year membership through the Kentucky Medical Association.”; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA will fund Kentucky medical students’ memberships for four years, beginning with the most recent incoming M1 medical student class and will annually evaluate the impact of this initiative on medical students’ engagement and professional development. Feedback will be solicited from participating local AMA Chapters and Executive Boards to identify areas for improvement and ensure that the program continues to boost medical student engagement and development effectively. This proposal will be reviewed and reassessed after four years to determine whether to continue sponsoring the local AMA chapters’ members.