

RESOLUTION

Subject: Publicizing, Supporting, and Promoting (Appropriate) AMA Member Physicians and Physician Spouses as Candidates for Local and State Offices

Submitted by: Northern Kentucky Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, medicine is under assault from all sides – from insurance companies to trial lawyers to onerous state and federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, the 118th United States Congress (1/3/23-1/3/25) enacted 209 public laws, which contrasts with approximately 16,000 items of state legislation passed annually^{1,2,3}; and

WHEREAS, we do not have enough physicians in political office, on the local, state or federal levels; and in general, there may be some benefit to supporting “medicine-friendly” physicians and physician spouses who run for political office; and

WHEREAS, our medical societies have political action committees (such as AMPAC for AMA) to support “medicine-friendly” candidates running for office; and

WHEREAS, AMPAC holds an annual “Candidate Workshop” and “Campaign School” to support “medicine-friendly” candidates running for elected offices⁴; and

WHEREAS, there are few mechanisms to enable physician members of our state and national medical societies to network when running for state and federal office, and

WHEREAS, partly due to high educational debt loads, busy clinical schedules, challenges with work-life balance, and limited bandwidth to engage in political activity, physicians have traditionally had a low level of giving to candidates for local, state, and federal offices; and

WHEREAS, those of us who have more time than money could potentially help candidates for elected office with social media support (retweeting, likes, etc) and/or volunteer time; and

WHEREAS, “medicine-friendly” candidates for political office would be interested in meeting potential donors, as well as individuals who may be willing to volunteer to support their campaigns with volunteer time and social media support; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no “central repository” that lists physicians (or physician spouses) running for state and federal office in the United States; and

WHEREAS, non-member physicians (or physician spouses) who are running for local, state or federal office should also be encouraged to join the AMA, Alliance, and/or their state and specialty medical societies; and

WHEREAS, in this age of social media, it should be relatively easy to set up members-only websites with lists of (appropriate) physicians and physician spouses who are running for elected offices; and

WHEREAS, in the first version of this resolution (submitted to the Missouri State Medical Association in 2024), two major concerns were raised: (1) potential legal implications, regarding coordination between state PACs, specialty society PACs, and AMPAC, as well as (2) desire not to endorse physician candidates if they are not aligned with the policies of their state medical association and/or our AMA; and

WHEREAS, similar concerns were raised when a second version of this resolution was submitted to the Ohio State Medical Association, or OSMA) in 2025, including:

- *“an individual’s campaign should do the work. Not every physician aligns with OSMA policy;”*
- *“promoting specific physicians or spouses as candidates risks alienating OSMA members with differing political views;”*
- *“It is more appropriate for OSMA to connect its members with opportunities to learn about candidacy;”* and

WHEREAS, recent events in Minnesota highlight the courage of anyone running for (and/or holding) local or state elected office(s), as they and their families are constantly in the spotlight (and potentially at risk); and

WHEREAS, given limited resources and bandwidth, it is likely that this proposal will need to be a collaborative effort between organized medicine and/or their respective political action committees; and

WHEREAS, it is unclear whether publicizing, supporting, and promoting such candidates should be a function of organized medicine (state and specialty societies, and our AMA) vs their respective political action committees (due to legal concerns, tax implications, etc); and

WHEREAS, state and specialty societies (or our AMA) may also determine that certain physicians or physician spouses who are running for elected office, may not merit recognition; and

WHEREAS, state and specialty societies (or our AMA) may also determine that certain words or actions of individuals running for elected office, should merit removal from such lists; and

WHEREAS, there is already a “National Council of State Legislators,” and perhaps our AMA may wish to consider helping to organize a “National Convention of Physician (and Physician Spouse) State Legislators” (perhaps in conjunction with the annual AMA State Advocacy Summit?); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association (AMA) collaborate with other interested organizations to facilitate opportunities for AMA physician-member and physician-spouse elected officials (at the local and state levels) to connect, exchange ideas, collaborate, and support each other to protect

our patients and our practices, such as with a “National Meeting of Physician State Legislators;” and be it further

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association (AMA) study the:

- (1) Feasibility of collaborating with state medical societies and specialty societies to assess appropriate AMA physician members and physician spouses running for state and local offices, and creating a “master list” to publicize, support, and promote those individuals; and
- (2) Opportunities to publicize this list widely, to support appropriate physicians and physician spouses who are aligned with our priorities (and encourage financial and social media support of those candidates); with a report back at I-26; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA forward this resolution to the AMA-House of Delegates at the Interim-25 meeting.