



KENTUCKY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Physicians Caring for Kentucky



Kentucky Physicians:
Leading With Every Step
2025 Annual Report



Leading with Every Step: A Message from the Chair of the KMA Board of Trustees

Over the past year, the Kentucky Medical Association (KMA) has been leading the way to improve the future health of Kentuckians, while also taking steps to prepare the organization for significant internal changes.

KMA President Evelyn Montgomery Jones, M.D., led a statewide public health initiative known as “Small STEPS, Big Impact,” which encourages healthy lifestyles through small steps that can lead to big changes in overall health. Doctor Montgomery Jones promoted the initiative throughout the year to the public and KMA members through media interviews, CME offerings, advertisements, podcasts, and other outlets, while also training “Physician Ambassadors” to serve as advocates for the program. Later this year, KET will feature the STEPS campaign in a special program highlighting the key issues surrounding the initiative. KMA President-Elect Jiapeng Huang, M.D., will continue the campaign throughout his presidency, making this one of the longest and most impactful public health initiatives ever undertaken by KMA.

Legislative advocacy continues to be a hallmark of the KMA, and this report highlights much of that work. I encourage you to read about KMA's recent advocacy initiatives, particularly those in the regulatory and legal space. KMA does a great deal in these areas that often goes unheralded but has a significant impact on patient care and the practice of medicine.

One of the Board of Trustees' most important responsibilities is selecting the organization's chief executive officer. This past year, Executive Vice President (EVP) Patrick Padgett announced his plan to retire in late 2026, allowing the Board of Trustees time to choose its next EVP. Under the leadership of Doctor Montgomery Jones, a small group of officers reviewed and recommended Deputy EVP Cory Meadows as Mr. Padgett's successor. After a thorough evaluation, the Board approved Mr. Meadows' promotion to the position in November 2026. Mr. Meadows has served as KMA's Director of Advocacy since 2011 and has taken an increased role in the Association's operations over the past few years. He is well known in Frankfort and throughout the state, and his legal background has been invaluable as healthcare issues have become increasingly complex. The Board looks forward to welcoming Mr. Meadows to his new role and extends its profound appreciation to Mr. Padgett for his nearly two decades of service and leadership.

This year also marks the departure of two longtime leaders from the Board and KMA's delegation to the AMA. Greg Cooper, M.D., and David Bensema, M.D., both KMA Past Presidents, will step down from the AMA Delegation after many years of outstanding service. Both have contributed greatly to the organization since serving as president and have provided invaluable leadership at the regional and national levels. We will certainly miss their presence on the Board.

KMA has also continued to strengthen its relationships with specialty societies. Last fall, a roundtable discussion with several specialty societies provided a valuable opportunity for physician leaders in the state to discuss common issues and how they can work with KMA on shared goals, including advocacy. KMA currently manages two state specialty societies and provides annual meeting services for several others. These collaborations allow organizations to share resources while benefiting from the knowledge and experience of KMA's staff.

As always, the work of KMA would not be possible without the support of its members. Thank you for your continued engagement and commitment to the profession.

Together, we are moving forward, step by step, toward a stronger future for medicine in Kentucky.



Stephen Toadvine, M.D.
Chair, KMA Board of Trustees

Advocacy

State Legislative Advocacy

The 2025 Kentucky General Assembly concluded its 30-day “short” session on March 28, passing 148 bills and 14 resolutions. The Republican supermajority demonstrated its influence by overriding Governor Andy Beshear’s vetoes on 27 of those bills. Among the high-profile measures enacted were **House Bill 1**, which lowers the state income tax to 3.5 percent beginning in 2026, and House Bill 4, which eliminates funding for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs at state universities. Lawmakers also approved sweeping regulatory reforms aimed at shifting certain authority from the Executive Branch to the Legislature, however, it is anticipated that these reforms will face legal challenges in the months ahead.

This session also marked a historic transition for the General Assembly as legislators prepared to convene in temporary chambers until 2029 while the State Capitol undergoes an extensive three-year renovation.

KMA Priority Legislation

KMA was actively involved throughout the session, advocating for physicians and patients. With support from members, KMA helped advance critical issues while successfully opposing legislation that could have negatively impacted public health and the practice of medicine. Prior Authorization: Championed by KMA, **House Bill 423** was an effort to address the growing administrative burdens physicians face due to prior authorization requirements. The bill proposed the creation of a prior authorization exemption, or “gold carding,” program that would have reduced the number of prior authorizations for physicians who met certain criteria.

The bill represented a significant step toward improving patient care and reflected a hard-won compromise between physicians, healthcare providers, and insurers. Although the bill had broad bipartisan support, it ultimately stalled in the Senate, becoming a casualty of unrelated political and policy disputes.

Despite the setback, KMA remains committed to advancing this effort during the 2026 legislative session.

Scope of Practice: Protecting physician-led care remained a top priority for KMA this session. **Senate Bill 88** would have significantly altered the relationship between physicians and physician assistants (PAs) by replacing “supervision” with “collaboration” throughout the PA Practice Act. This change would have threatened the physician-led care model and opened the door to independent PA practice. Thanks to the persistent efforts of KMA members, the bill stalled in the Senate Licensing and Occupation Committee and was never brought to a vote.

Smoking Ban Exemptions: KMA joined several national healthcare and patient advocacy organizations in opposing **House Bill 211**, which would have weakened local smoke-free policies by allowing cigar bars in communities that otherwise prohibit public smoking. The House voted to advance the bill over strong objections from the KMA, the American Lung Association, the American Cancer Society, and the American Heart

Association. The bill cleared the Senate State & Local Government Committee but failed to receive a full vote on the Senate floor.

Healthcare Bills That Did Not Pass

Medicaid: Several Medicaid reform bills were introduced but failed to pass during the session. **Senate Bill 13** sought to limit Medicaid contracts to three MCOs but again stalled in the House. **Senate Bill 153**, initially focused on prepayment review transparency, shifted to address 340B drug disputes and drew strong opposition. **House Bill 785** would have increased MCO oversight and provider protections, including notice requirements, payment limits, and mandated service coverage, but it also failed to advance.

Conscientious Objections in Health Care: Legislation protecting healthcare professionals and institutions from being required to participate in services that conflict with their moral or religious beliefs was again introduced in the Senate. **Senate Bill 132** included exceptions for emergency care and sexual assault examinations and sought to shield providers from civil, criminal, or administrative liability. While the bill passed the Senate, it once again failed to advance in the House.

Water Fluoridation: A bill to make water fluoridation programs optional for the governing bodies of local water providers was again introduced in the House. **House Bill 16** passed the House after a lengthy debate in the Health Services Committee. The bill was assigned to the Senate Health Services Committee but did not receive a hearing. KMA joined several oral health organizations in opposing the legislation.

Vaccines: Multiple vaccine-related bills were introduced in both chambers this session, with none of the proposals receiving a committee hearing in their respective chambers. **Senate Bill 246** would have required employers that mandate vaccines to allow religious or medical exemptions. **House Bill 601** and **House Bill 745** focused on blood donations, including labeling mRNA-vaccinated donor blood, testing for spike proteins, and prohibiting state agencies from maintaining vaccination records. **House Bill 629** sought to prohibit the denial of healthcare services based on vaccination status. Finally, **Senate Bill 177** would have barred mRNA vaccination requirements for school, work, or medical care and prohibited the administering of mRNA vaccines to minors.

Healthcare Bills That Passed

Vaping, Tobacco, and Nicotine Retailers: **Senate Bill 100** requires nicotine, tobacco, and vape retailers to be licensed and creates a new enforcement division within the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. The bill also imposes escalating penalties for sales to minors and directs collected fees toward compliance checks under Kentucky’s T21 law to prevent underage use.

Colorectal Cancer Screening: **House Bill 421** mandates insurance coverage for FDA-approved bowel prep and all colorectal cancer examinations and laboratory tests based on the latest guidelines from the United States Multi-Society Task Force on Colorectal Cancer. It also removes prior authorization and cost-sharing, except for some HSA-qualified plans. The bill is cost-neutral and may save \$68 million annually on treatment expenses.

Advocacy

Free-Standing Birthing Centers: House Bill 90 makes it easier for free-standing birthing centers to open and operate in Kentucky by removing the certificate of need requirement for facilities with four or fewer beds. The bill requires the centers to be accredited, located within 30 miles of a hospital, and have a physician medical director responsible for patient safety and quality review. Centers must also maintain written patient transfer agreements with nearby hospitals and emergency services.

In the final days of the session, the Senate amended **HB 90** to include clarifying language on medical exceptions to Kentucky's near-total abortion ban. The amendment explicitly protects medical care related to miscarriage management, ectopic and molar pregnancy removal, sepsis treatment, hemorrhage control, and the management of fetal demise and stillbirth.

Increased Legislative Control over Medicaid: House Bill 695 expands legislative oversight of Medicaid by requiring the General Assembly to approve program changes. The bill also creates a new Medicaid Oversight and Advisory Board and reinstates pre-pandemic prior authorization requirements for behavioral health services. Additionally, it directs the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to seek a federal waiver to implement a mandatory work requirement program.

For additional details on healthcare-related bills addressed in the General Assembly, please view the full [2025 KMA Advocacy in Action Achievement Report](#).

Advocacy in Action

KMA extends its sincere gratitude to its members for their dedication and engagement throughout the 2025 legislative session. Despite the cancellation of Physicians' Day at the Capitol in Frankfort due to inclement weather, many members met with legislators virtually or by phone. This session also saw a record number of emails sent to legislators through the KMA Action Center.

Your continued advocacy remains essential as we work together to advance policies that protect patients and the practice of medicine. We encourage all members to consider contributing to the Kentucky Physicians Political Action Committee (KPPAC). KPPAC plays a vital role in supporting the election of pro-medicine candidates to the General Assembly, further strengthening our advocacy efforts. For more information or to contribute, please visit kppac.org.

Policy and Regulatory Advocacy

Over the past year, KMA, through the Kentucky Medicaid Physicians' Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC), advocated for a change to state regulation 907 KAR 3:005. This regulation currently limits coverage to one evaluation and management (E&M) service per physician, per patient, per day. This outdated language, unchanged for over 30 years, conflicts with national CPT guidelines, which allow multiple E&M services on the same day using modifier 25.

This inconsistency caused billing challenges for practices and, in one case, led a managed care organization (MCO) to retroactively recoup payments for claims that had multiple E&Ms billed for the same patient on the same date of service. KMA and the PTAC argued that physicians should be able to address multiple issues during a single visit, both for patient convenience and proper treatment, while still receiving appropriate reimbursement for their services. The Department for Medicaid Services (DMS) agreed and committed to filing a revision to the regulation. In response to KMA's advocacy, the MCO in question also updated its policy, now allowing billing for multiple E&M services for the same patient on the same day. KMA will continue to monitor these changes as they proceed through the regulatory process.

The PTAC also continued its advocacy for improved Medicaid reimbursement. As a result, DMS conducted a targeted rate study to assess the cost of increasing payment for CPT codes 99213 and 99214 to 100% of the Medicare fee schedule. The study estimated the total annual cost at \$130.8 million, with the state responsible for approximately \$38 million of the increased costs. Having clear data will strengthen KMA's efforts to advocate for better reimbursement for Medicaid services moving forward.

KMA also remained active on tobacco control issues. In May, the Association joined other Kentucky health organizations in signing a letter to the state's congressional delegation, urging restoration of funding to the CDC's Office on Smoking and Health (OSH). Kentucky receives about \$1.6 million annually from OSH, which supports programs that help to prevent youth tobacco use, reduce secondhand smoke exposure, and assist individuals in quitting tobacco. KMA will continue to lead and support smoke-free initiatives in the Commonwealth.

Legal Trust Fund

The KMA Legal Trust Fund, funded entirely by member contributions, supports legal efforts to protect physicians' interests in state and federal courts.

In 2025, KMA and the AMA Litigation Center partnered to file a "friend of the court" brief in the Kentucky Supreme Court case of *Lloyd v. Norton Hospitals, Inc.* This case reflects KMA's continued commitment to opposing lawsuit abuse and ensuring fair treatment of physicians within the legal system.

The case involves a retained surgical needle following a knee replacement procedure. Although x-rays taken during the procedure were reviewed by two radiologists who found no foreign objects, a later x-ray revealed the retained needle, requiring a second surgery. The trial court ruled in favor of the radiologists by excluding expert testimony from another specialty and granting summary judgment that was later partially overturned by an appeals court.

The litigation centers on whether the *res ipsa loquitur* doctrine, which allows liability to be inferred without direct proof of negligence, should apply, and whether expert testimony from different specialties should be permitted in medical malpractice cases.

KMA and the Litigation Center's brief supports the radiologists, urging the Court to limit cross-specialty expert testimony and uphold appropriate legal standards in professional liability cases. The Kentucky Supreme Court has agreed to review the case, which now awaits oral argument.

Public Health

SMALL STEPS BIG IMPACT

In January, KMA and the Kentucky Foundation for Medical Care (KFMC) launched its latest public health campaign, “Small STEPS, Big Impact.” Funded in part by a grant from the Kentucky Department for Public Health and led by KMA President Evelyn Montgomery Jones, M.D., the effort seeks to encourage Kentuckians to make small lifestyle changes that can add up to a big improvement in their overall health.

This two-year initiative focuses on five key areas in which Kentucky ranks poorly in the “America’s Health Rankings Report,” and forms the acronym STEPS:

- **Screenings:** Encourages regular health screenings for early detection and prevention of diseases.
- **Tobacco Use:** Promoting cessation of tobacco use to reduce related health risks.
- **Exercise & Nutrition:** Advocating for increased physical activity and healthier eating habits.
- **Physician Visits:** Stressing the importance of routine check-ups to maintain overall health.
- **Stress:** Highlighting stress management as a critical component of well-being.

Prior to the campaign’s launch, KMA hosted a training session for physicians across the state to serve as “Physician Ambassadors” for the program, equipping them with media and public speaking training that encourages patients to adopt healthier lifestyles. More than a dozen physicians from across Kentucky participated in the training.



The campaign launched on January 13 with a press release and website, SmallSTEPSSky.org, as well as an initial round of digital and web advertisements. In February, Physician Ambassadors penned an op-ed distributed statewide on cardiovascular health in observance of American Heart Month, and in February, the campaign held its first CME event with gastroenterologist Whitney Jones, M.D., who discussed colon cancer screenings.

The campaign has also been active in its first year with several media appearances. Dr. Montgomery Jones and Physician Ambassadors appeared in pieces for Spectrum News 1, in a segment on FOX56’s “Live From Chevy Chase,” as well as being featured on an episode of KET’s “Kentucky Health,” which aired in April. Dr. Montgomery Jones also recorded an episode of Norton Healthcare’s *MedChat* podcast, which featured the campaign and discussed small steps patients can take to improve their health.

Small STEPS, Big Impact launched another round of web and digital ads in May and held an additional CME event in June, which welcomed a nutritionist and the lead physician from the Louisville chapter of “Walk with a Doc” to highlight exercise and diet changes.

Small STEPS, Big Impact will continue through 2026 under the leadership of KMA President-Elect Jiapeng Huang, M.D. More information is available at SmallSTEPSSky.org.

Education

KMA Annual Meeting

The 2024 KMA Annual Meeting was held August 23–25 at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Louisville. With the theme “Voices and Visions: Influencing the Future of Kentucky Healthcare,” the event explored critical issues facing the profession, including workforce challenges, the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in clinical care, and advancements in genetic medicine. Led by 2023–2024 KMA President Michael Kuduk, M.D., the educational sessions featured presentations on the potential and limitations of AI in health care, new approaches to personalized risk prediction, and the latest developments in gene therapy, including a moving personal story from the Roberts family, who shared their experience with a life-changing gene therapy treatment.

One of the highlights of the meeting was the HealthForce Kentucky mobile simulation lab. This unique, hands-on exhibit based in Western Kentucky allowed members to explore medical technology and training tools used to educate middle and high school students in rural areas, offering an immersive look at efforts to strengthen the state’s future healthcare workforce.

The President’s Celebration offered members the opportunity to socialize and connect with their colleagues. The event featured a bluegrass band and the opportunity to participate in a collaborative art piece. The Association also recognized graduates of the Medical Student Outreach and Leadership Program and presented four of its highest awards at the reception.

During the House of Delegates meeting, Evelyn Montgomery Jones, M.D., of Paducah was installed as the 2024–2025 KMA President. A practicing dermatologist and business owner, Dr. Montgomery Jones used her inaugural address to launch the “Small STEPS, Big Impact” public health initiative as the focus of her term.

Virtual Education

The KMA CME Guarantee Program remains a valuable member benefit, offering access to at least 30 hours of Category I Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit every three-year cycle at no cost. This member-exclusive program continues to expand, offering education in both live virtual and on-demand formats to accommodate the varied schedules of Kentucky physicians.

KMA continues to partner with state agencies and community organizations to offer relevant programming, including the continuation of the “Learn with Me” series led by KMA Past President Monalisa Tailor, M.D. Other educational offerings throughout the year supported KMA’s “Small STEPS, Big Impact” public health initiative. Two of the most popular courses offered this past year were a “Learn with Me” session on Lifestyle Medicine featuring KMA President Evelyn Montgomery Jones, M.D., and a session on Colorectal Cancer Screening and Prevention as part of the “STEPS” campaign. Nearly 2,000 participants engaged with KMA-accredited activities in 2024.



CME Accreditation

In 2024, KMA expanded its Continuing Medical Education (CME) accreditation services to providers in West Virginia and Missouri, bringing the total number of KMA-accredited organizations to twenty. KMA offers resources, training, and ongoing support to help providers maintain compliance with accreditation standards.

KMA’s monthly “Provider Hours” continues to be a successful initiative, offering accredited providers direct access to KMA staff for guidance on activity planning, compliance, and policy updates. In February, KMA hosted its annual CME Coordinator Conference, covering topics such as the use of artificial intelligence in educational planning and implementation, gamification in continuing medical education, and case studies on compliance.

KMA also completed the reaccreditation process with the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to maintain its status as an ACCME-accredited provider. Led by KMA’s CME Council Chair James Borders, M.D., KMA submitted documentation and participated in an interview to confirm compliance with accreditation rules. Additionally, six KMA-accredited providers were reviewed for reaccreditation this year, with all six receiving renewed accreditation decisions.

KMA continues to support education through joint providership, which allows non-accredited organizations to offer CME activities in partnership with KMA. This past year, KMA worked with over fifteen specialty organizations and maintained its collaborations with Lexington Clinic and Primary Plus to provide CME for their monthly grand rounds sessions. Hundreds of physicians have participated in these programs, resulting in improved patient outcomes.

Leadership

Kentucky Physicians Leadership Institute



The Kentucky Physicians Leadership Institute (KPLI) remains the state's premier leadership training program for physicians. Each year, up to fifteen participants are selected for a year-long experience focused on leadership development through sessions on personal growth, business, advocacy, and communications. Participants also hear directly from healthcare and business leaders

during the popular "Fireside Chat" sessions. At the 2024 KMA Annual Meeting, twelve physicians were recognized for completing the program, representing both urban and rural areas as well as a range of specialties.

Supported by the Kentucky Foundation for Medical Care, KPLI continues to cultivate leaders who serve as ambassadors for the organization. Many KMA officers, including the current President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Immediate Past President, are KPLI alumni. Graduates have also taken active roles in legislative advocacy, media outreach, and served as "Physician Ambassadors" for the "Small STEPS, Big Impact" public health campaign.

With demands on physicians increasing and some longtime faculty stepping away from the program, 2025 provided an opportunity to pause and reassess the current content and schedule. The Long Range Planning Commission recently recommended updates to ensure KPLI continues to meet the evolving needs of physicians. KMA is working to revise the curriculum and structure in preparation for the 2026 class.



Medical Student Outreach and Leadership Program

Now in its tenth year, the Medical Student Outreach and Leadership (MSOL) Program continues to foster the next generation of physician leaders by engaging students



early in organized medicine. Through a combination of educational sessions and community involvement, the program helps cultivate leadership skills and professional development among medical students. MSOL currently operates across six campuses: the University of Louisville, the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine, and the University of Kentucky's campuses in Lexington, Northern Kentucky, Morehead, and Bowling Green. This year's class of twenty-three graduates brings the program's total number of graduates to 688. The MSOL Program is made possible through the support of the Kentucky Foundation for Medical Care.



Administration

Membership

Total membership rose by 1% over the past year, reflecting a shift in the overall member composition. While Active membership declined by 5%, other paid categories such as Associate, Inactive, and First-Year Resident grew by 1%. Unpaid categories, including Life, Exempt Resident, and Student members, saw a 3% increase. One area of notable growth is within the first-year Active category, which increased by 17.6%, highlighting the Association's recent success in recruiting early-career physicians. While the Active category continues to decline overall, there is growing interest and engagement among early-career physicians and other membership types.

Budget

KMA continues to diversify its income, though member dues remain the primary source of operating funds. As part of these efforts, KMA is currently managing the operations and annual meetings of three outside organizations, helping to expand both non-dues revenue and potential opportunities for member recruitment.

KMA also continues to collaborate closely with its charitable arm, the Kentucky Foundation for Medical Care (KFMC), on a range of public health and educational efforts, most notably the current STEPS campaign, led by KMA President Evelyn Montgomery Jones, M.D., and supported by a grant from the Kentucky Department for Public Health. Additionally, the KMA "CME Guarantee" program continues to offer a wide selection of online continuing medical education courses, some of which also generate additional revenue. KMA also recently received a grant from the American Medical Association's Scope of Practice Partnership to support an additional contract lobbyist through the next legislative session in response to the growing number of scope of practice challenges from non-physician groups.

KMA also continues its efforts to improve operational efficiencies. The Budget Committee discussed several potential cost-saving measures this year and will continue to explore options to ensure operations remain financially sustainable in the future. While the Association's employee census was reduced this past year, further cuts will most likely be limited without subsequent reductions in member services and programming. As a result of the Committee's emphasis on increasing non-dues revenue and maintaining sound fiscal management, at the time of the drafting of this report, KMA's cash and investments increased by 2.5% compared to the same time last year.

As part of its ongoing responsibilities, the Budget Committee also helps oversee the work of the Association's Executive Vice President (EVP). In 2024, the current EVP, Patrick Padgett, shared his intention to retire within the next few years. After careful consideration and a formal review process, the Board of Trustees unanimously approved a plan for KMA's Deputy EVP Cory Meadows to begin transitioning into the EVP role. Mr. Meadows will work closely with Mr. Padgett in the coming months, with the transition set to be completed in November 2026.

Long Range Planning

Over the past decade, the Kentucky Physicians Leadership Institute (KPLI) has successfully helped prepare KMA member physicians to become leaders in their practices, health systems, communities, and professional organizations. It has also served as a meaningful way for members to become more involved in KMA.

The program has evolved over the years based on input from both participants and instructors. KMA has been fortunate to have faculty from Butler University teach much of the curriculum, with KMA staff leading sessions on advocacy, public health, and communications. The program has also featured interviews with physician and business leaders sharing their own experiences, challenges, and lessons learned, as well as panel discussions on topics such as communication, leadership, and public health.

While there have been slight changes to the format over the years, the schedule has stayed largely the same, consisting of four weekends held on Fridays and Saturdays, with the final session taking place during the KMA Annual Meeting. Participants also attend a dinner each Friday evening, as part of the "Fireside Chat" interviews with guest speakers.

However, as demands on physicians continue to grow, and with some longtime faculty moving on, it became evident that 2025 was the right time to pause and restructure the program to meet the needs of a new generation of physicians who often bring a different perspective to leadership.

As such, no KPLI class was held in 2025, and the Long Range Planning Commission, which originally helped implement the program, met to discuss possible format changes and recommend curriculum updates. KMA staff are now using this feedback from Commission members, many of whom are KPLI graduates themselves, to shape the curriculum and format for the upcoming 2026 class.



Administration

Administrative and Association Management Services

KMA continues to expand its administrative and specialty society management services, providing valuable support to partnered organizations. Over the last year, KMA provided annual meeting services for the Kentucky Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, the Kentucky Society of Anesthesiologists (KSA), and the Kentucky Dermatological Association (KDA), with contracts in place for future meetings.

In addition to meeting services, KMA offers full-service specialty society management, including financial oversight, membership management, administrative support, and marketing. In 2024, KMA assumed full management responsibilities for KSA, enhancing its communications and streamlining its governance structure. KMA also continued its management services agreements with the KDA and the Southeastern Delegation to the American Medical Association. This area continues to be a growing source of revenue for the Association, and efforts are ongoing to identify additional organizations that may benefit from these services.



Delegation to the American Medical Association

The Kentucky Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) proudly celebrated the historic leadership of Bruce Scott, M.D., who served as the 179th AMA President and the 11th from Kentucky. Throughout his term, Dr. Scott remained a tireless advocate for physicians and patients nationwide, focusing on critical issues such as Medicare payment reform, prior authorization, access to care, and physician well-being. In his final address to the AMA House of Delegates, he called on physicians to remain committed to advocacy, stating, "Our profession is worth the fight. Our patients are worth the fight."

At the 2025 AMA Annual Meeting, the Kentucky Delegation actively contributed to policy development, reviewing hundreds of resolutions and offering testimony during reference committee hearings. The House of Delegates passed directives to strengthen the AMA's efforts on prior authorization reform and revised existing guidelines to ensure responsible use of augmented intelligence. The House also passed a new policy calling for public education about ultra-processed foods and encouraging the incorporation of nutrition education in medical training.

This year also marks the retirement of two longtime members of Kentucky's AMA delegation. Greg Cooper, M.D., Chair of the Kentucky Delegation, will step down after nearly 30 years of distinguished service, having served as a key leader within both the Kentucky and Southeastern delegations. David Bensema, M.D., will also conclude his 13 years of service on the KMA delegation, including his role as Chair of Reference Committee F, which oversees the AMA's financial matters. Both Dr. Cooper and Dr. Bensema leave behind a legacy of expertise, dedication, and advocacy on behalf of Kentucky physicians, and they will be greatly missed.

