



ANNUAL REPORT

2026



KENTUCKY PHYSICIANS: *AT THE HEART OF IMPACT*

2026 KMA ANNUAL MEETING
AUG. 22-23 | LOUISVILLE MARRIOTT EAST

AT THE HEART OF IMPACT:

A Message from the Chair of the KMA Board of Trustees



As Board Chair of the Kentucky Medical Association (KMA), I am proud to report on another successful year for our Association and the members we serve. The theme for this year's Annual Meeting, Kentucky Physicians: At the Heart of Impact, captures both the difference we as physicians make in the lives of our patients and our broader role in advocating for change and leading our communities.

Over the past year, the influence of Kentucky physicians has extended well beyond the exam room. Together, we have worked to improve public health, shape healthcare policy, and ensure that the physician perspective is central to decisions affecting patient care. One of our most important accomplishments was the passage of House Bill 176, a major step forward in reforming prior authorization requirements. For the past five years, KMA has worked to address the delays, administrative burdens, and barriers to care caused by prior authorization. Thanks to the advocacy and engagement of our members, we helped secure reforms during the 2026 legislative session that will allow physicians to spend more time focused on patients rather than paperwork.

At the same time, KMA built on its multi-year effort to improve public health through the Small STEPS, Big Impact campaign. This year's campaign focused on helping Kentuckians make practical, achievable changes to improve cardiovascular health. Through digital outreach, public service announcements, media appearances, and community engagement, the STEPS Physician Ambassadors delivered trusted health information directly to the public. These efforts reached millions of Kentuckians, demonstrating the value of physician leadership not only in treating disease but also in promoting prevention and healthy lifestyles. The campaign was also recognized nationally, receiving the American Association of Medical Society Executives (AAMSE) Profiles in Excellence Award at the organization's July meeting. This recognition is the result of the vision and leadership of KMA President Jiapeng Huang, M.D., Ph.D., and Past-President Evelyn Jones, M.D., who served as the catalysts for the creation and growth of the STEPS initiative.

In addition to these outstanding achievements in advocacy and public health, KMA also focused on supporting physicians and their ongoing professional development through relevant continuing medical education opportunities. Whether through the "Learn with Me" series or special CME events exploring the growing health risks associated with popular lifestyle trends, KMA helped members stay informed about new advancements and emerging issues in medicine.

This year marks an important transition for our Association. After nearly two decades of service as our Executive Vice President (EVP), Pat Padgett is retiring from KMA. During his tenure, Pat helped guide the Association through both challenges and opportunities, modernized member services and physician leadership initiatives, and positioned KMA as a respected voice in healthcare policy and advocacy. Many of the accomplishments highlighted in this report reflect his leadership and strategic vision.

Pat provided notice of his retirement nearly two years ago, giving the Board ample time to prepare for this transition. After a thorough evaluation process, the Board selected Deputy Executive Vice President Cory Meadows as KMA's next EVP. Over the past year, Cory and Pat have spent many hours reviewing the Association's operations, with Board leadership also providing resources and guidance. The transition process has reinforced the value of having a leader who already understands the Association's operations and relationships. Cory's background as Director of Advocacy gives him experience no one else possesses, and anyone who has worked with Cory over the years knows him to be a person of great substance. KMA leadership looks forward to working with him as he assumes his new role over the coming months.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for your commitment to KMA and the medical profession. Together, through both policy and practice, we are making a difference for physicians and patients across our Commonwealth.

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

STATE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

During the 2026 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, lawmakers passed a total of 193 bills, including 120 House bills and 73 Senate bills, along with 11 joint and concurrent resolutions.

The primary focus of the session was the passage of the biennial state budget through **HB 500**, along with **HB 900**, which directed one-time investments from the Budget Reserve Trust Fund toward infrastructure, education, and economic development priorities. Medicaid policy was also a central issue throughout the session. HB 500 included the largest state investment in Medicaid to date, while **HB 2** advanced substantial reforms to the program. In addition to the various Medicaid proposals, lawmakers considered and passed a wide range of healthcare-related measures affecting coverage, workforce, and public health.

KMA was actively engaged throughout the session, advocating for policies that support physicians and protect patient care.

KMA Priority Legislation

Prior Authorization: After five years of continuous advocacy, KMA's priority legislation on prior authorization reform, **HB 176**, passed the General Assembly and was signed into law. This achievement reflects years of collaboration focused on reducing administrative burden and removing barriers that delay patient care.

The law establishes a prior authorization exemption program, often referred to as "gold carding," for physicians who have been approved for a specific service at least 93 percent of the time and meet additional insurer criteria. These physicians will no longer be required to complete repeated prior authorization requests for routinely approved services, allowing them to deliver care more efficiently and without unnecessary delays. The legislation also includes enhanced reporting requirements for insurers and the state Medicaid program, providing lawmakers with greater insight into prior authorization trends and helping inform future policy decisions.

HB 176 applies to state-regulated health plans, including those offered through Kynect and the Kentucky Employees' Health Plan; however, it does not extend to federally governed plans such as Medicare, Medicaid, VA/Tricare, or self-funded ERISA plans. Prescription drugs are not automatically included, although insurers may choose to incorporate them into exemption programs.

This milestone represents important progress toward a more efficient and transparent prior authorization system in Kentucky. Effective implementation will be critical, and ongoing physician engagement will help ensure the law achieves its

intended outcome. A more in-depth summary of the provisions and applicability of HB 176 is available on the [KMA website](#).

Physician Workforce: Addressing the physician shortage in Kentucky is a top priority for KMA. **SJR 116** directs the University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, and Eastern Kentucky University to collaborate to identify solutions to strengthen the state's physician workforce, particularly in underserved areas. The study will evaluate strategies such as expanding residency programs, leveraging the J-1 visa waiver program, enhancing loan repayment incentives, and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence.

Many of the workforce discussions in recent sessions have focused heavily on non-physician providers. This resolution signals a needed shift toward strengthening the physician workforce. KMA is encouraged by this approach and looks forward to contributing as a key stakeholder as recommendations are developed.

Scope of Practice: Protecting physician-led care was a major focus for KMA this session. Following extensive advocacy, a compromise was reached to amend **SB 116** to preserve the physician supervision model for physician assistants. As originally drafted, the bill would have replaced supervision with a collaborative model that could have opened the door to independent practice. The revised legislation maintains physician oversight while modernizing the process through supervision agreements that allow for greater efficiency and site-based decision-making. The bill also permits physician assistants to prescribe Schedule II medications under physician supervision and authorizes them to perform vision testing for the Transportation Cabinet.

At the same time, KMA strongly opposed several proposals that would have moved away from the physician-led model. **SB 12** would have authorized Level IV trauma centers to staff emergency departments with non-physician providers under off-site physician supervision. While there are workforce and access challenges in rural areas, KMA and the Kentucky Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (KACEP) raised serious concerns that SB 12 did not reflect the realities of emergency medicine, where immediate on-site physician-led decision-making is critical. Together, the groups emphasized that off-site supervision is effectively no supervision at all. Although the bill passed the Senate, it did not advance in the House.

Similarly, HB 444 would have expanded the scope of practice for audiologists by authorizing independent diagnosis, treatment, prescribing, and certain procedural interventions beyond their traditional training. KMA joined the American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery and the Kentucky Society of Otolaryngology in opposing the bill due to patient safety concerns and the risk of delayed or missed diagnoses. Although the bill did not advance this session, similar proposals are expected to return in future sessions.

ADVOCACY

Physician Wellness: KMA also advanced efforts to support physician wellness and reduce barriers to seeking care. **SB 78**, a broader physician credentialing proposal, included KMA-supported provisions to reform credentialing practices that can discourage physicians from seeking mental health or substance use treatment. Specifically, the bill would have required standardized credentialing applications and prohibited questions about past or current health conditions that do not impair a physician's ability to practice safely.

According to a recent Physicians' Foundation survey, 4 in 10 physicians report being afraid, or knowing a colleague who is afraid, to seek mental health care due to intrusive questions on licensure and credentialing applications. More than half of physicians report knowing a colleague who has considered, attempted, or died by suicide. These findings highlight the urgent need to reduce stigma and remove unnecessary barriers to care.

Although SB 78 did not pass this session, this marks the first year these provisions were introduced. KMA looks forward to advancing these reforms and continuing discussions with legislators on this important issue.

2026 KMA Advocacy in Action Achievement Report

Other legislation passed during the 2026 session included Medicaid reforms, provisional licensure for international medical graduates, and coverage for feeding or eating disorders. A more comprehensive overview of healthcare legislation passed and considered during the session is available in KMA's [Advocacy in Action Achievement Report](#).

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

More Than 75 Physicians Attend the 2026 KMA Physicians' Day at the Capitol

KMA members from across the state gathered in Frankfort on February 18 for the annual Physicians' Day at the Capitol. Physicians, residents, and medical students met directly with lawmakers to share real-world experiences and advocate for policies that support patients and strengthen the practice environment.

This year, KMA physicians united around efforts to reduce administrative burdens, particularly through prior authorization reforms that increase transparency, streamline processes, and allow physicians to spend more time focused on patient care.

As Kentucky enters an important election year, supporting a pro-medicine legislature is critical. Through the Kentucky Physicians Political Action Committee (KPPAC), physicians can help ensure medicine has a strong voice in Frankfort. To learn more or contribute, visit www.kppac.org.



KMA Leaders Attend National Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C.

KMA leaders from across the state traveled to Washington, D.C., February 23-25, to advocate on issues of crucial importance to health care as part of the AMA National Advocacy Conference.

In discussions with Congressional members and their staff, attendees emphasized the importance of reforming Medicare physician payment, fixing prior authorization, and protecting access to care in Medicaid.





Legal Advocacy

The KMA Legal Trust Fund, supported solely by member contributions, is utilized to litigate on behalf of physicians before state and federal courts.

KMA and the AMA Litigation Center partnered on an amicus brief before the Kentucky Supreme Court in *Lloyd v. Norton Hospitals, Inc.* The case arose from a medical negligence action following a total knee replacement surgery in which a suture needle became dislodged and was later discovered inside the patient's knee. The plaintiff pursued claims against multiple defendants, including radiologists who reviewed intraoperative x-rays and a surgical assistant involved in the procedure.

The case presented important questions regarding the proof required to proceed with a medical negligence claim, including whether a claim may move forward without expert testimony establishing the applicable medical standard of care. The case also addressed whether the doctrine of *res ipsa loquitur*, which allows negligence to be inferred in limited circumstances, applied under the facts presented.

Through their brief, KMA and the AMA Litigation Center emphasized that an adverse event, by itself, is not the same as medical negligence. They urged the Court to reaffirm that physicians and other health care professionals should not be subjected to trial unless the plaintiff can present competent expert testimony showing how the applicable standard of care was breached and how that breach caused the alleged injury.

In June 2026, the Kentucky Supreme Court issued a published opinion reversing the Court of Appeals and reinstating summary judgment in favor of the defendant radiologists and surgical assistant. The Court held that the plaintiff could not proceed against the radiologists without expert testimony establishing the applicable radiology standard of care. The Court also held that *res ipsa loquitur* did not apply to the surgical assistant under the facts presented.

The decision represents an important appellate victory for Kentucky physicians and the medical community. It reinforces that health care professionals should be judged according to the standard of care applicable to their own profession or specialty, helps prevent hindsight bias from turning an unfortunate medical outcome into presumed negligence, and protects physicians from litigation unsupported by competent expert proof. The ruling also supports KMA's broader efforts to preserve access to quality, affordable care by ensuring that medical liability remains grounded in sound legal and medical principles.

POLICY AND REGULATORY ADVOCACY

This year, KMA, through the Physician Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC), focused on addressing issues that have created major challenges for physician practices across Kentucky. Key topics of discussion included managed care organization (MCO) denials of routine lab tests, pediatric vaccination rates, and coordination-of-benefits challenges for patients with both Medicaid and commercial insurance coverage.

The PTAC also closely monitored anticipated changes resulting from new federal Medicaid requirements contained in the federal law passed, known as H.R. 1, or the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act," with particular attention to the potential effects of six-month Medicaid eligibility redeterminations.

The Committee's most significant accomplishment this year was the culmination of a multi-year advocacy effort to amend 907 KAR 3:005. Specifically, the PTAC advocated for the removal of language stating that "coverage for an evaluation and management service shall be limited to one per physician per recipient per date of service." This provision created longstanding confusion and administrative challenges for physician practices related to billing and documentation. As a result of the PTAC's engagement and advocacy on this issue, the amendment has advanced to the final stages of the regulatory process and is expected to take effect later this year. This change will allow physician practices to more accurately code and bill for services provided, better reflecting the complexity and scope of care delivered to Kentucky Medicaid patients.

The PTAC also experienced several leadership and membership transitions during the past year. The Committee extended its sincere appreciation to Ashima Gupta, M.D., and Eric Lydon, M.D., for their dedicated service as their terms concluded. The PTAC also welcomed two new members, Ish Stevens, M.D., of Ashland, and Kellie Evans, M.D., of Manchester. In addition to joining the Committee, Dr. Evans was selected to serve as the PTAC's representative to the Medicaid Advisory Committee (MAC).

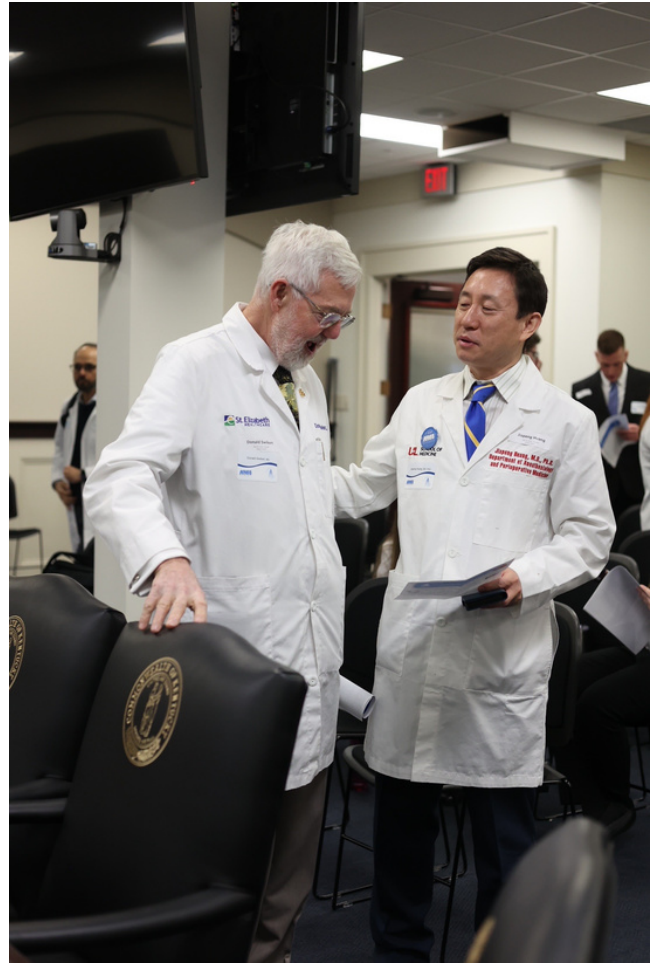
2026 Kentucky Medical Association Gun Violence and Firearm Safety (GVFS) Work Group Annual Report – Board Chair's Report

The Gun Violence and Firearm Safety Work Group met in January and June of this year to review emerging policy issues and identify opportunities for the Kentucky Medical Association (KMA) to promote evidence-based public health initiatives that improve the health and safety of Kentuckians.

A primary focus of the Work Group was consideration of House Bill 299, legislation that would have established a state prohibition on the possession of federally illegal machine gun conversion devices. After reviewing the legislation, the Work Group recommended that the KMA support the measure and asked the KMA Legislative Quick Action Committee for their review. Following the LQAC's review, the KMA signed on as a supporter of the bill, and monitored the legislation through session.

In addition to legislative advocacy, the Work Group continued to strengthen relationships with organizations working to address mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Members engaged with representatives of the Pete Foundation to explore collaborative opportunities focused on physician education and improving patient outcomes. These discussions are ongoing and are centered on enhancing KMA's continuing medical education offerings related to mental health awareness, suicide prevention, and other evidence-based strategies that support physician engagement in preventing firearm-related injury and death.

The Work Group remains committed to providing the KMA with thoughtful recommendations on legislative, educational, and public health initiatives that promote public safety, reduce preventable injuries, and improve the health and well-being of Kentuckians. The Work Group looks forward to continuing these efforts during the coming year.



SMALL STEPS BIG IMPACT

Since its launch in 2025, the KMA and the Kentucky Foundation for Medical Care's (KFMC) Small STEPS, Big Impact campaign has established a strong and growing presence across the Commonwealth. Through strategic digital advertising, social media outreach, earned media placements, physician engagement, and educational events, the initiative has delivered practical, physician-led health information to Kentuckians and encouraged small changes that can add up to a big improvement in overall health.

Over the past year, the campaign continued under the leadership of KMA President Jiapeng Huang, M.D., Ph.D., with a focus on the cardiovascular effects of each of the campaign's five STEPS areas: Screenings, Tobacco use, Exercise and nutrition, Physician visits, and Stress management. Concerns raised by STEPS Physician Ambassadors about social media wellness trends, such as energy drinks, supplements, and vaping products, led to the development of a two-part CME series focused on cardiovascular health. The series included a session on popular health fads and heart health, as well as a second session focused on vaping, tobacco, and marijuana use. Both sessions received positive feedback from attendees and are available as enduring material for KMA members.

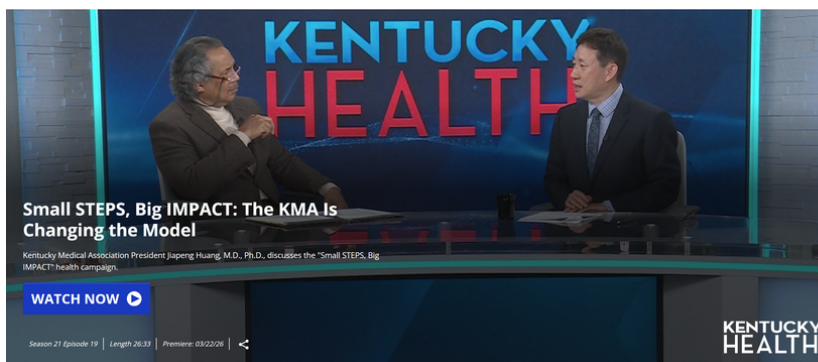
The campaign also expanded its reach through digital and social media ads. In total, Small STEPS, Big Impact generated more than 3 million impressions in 2026 and drove thousands of visits to the campaign website, SmallSTEPSSky.org, where users can access evidence-based health resources and wellness information. In an effort to further meet Kentuckians "where they are," the campaign launched a series of advertisements during the 2026 NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments, where a 30-second PSA aired during more than 125 games across multiple streaming platforms.

A cornerstone of the campaign has been its physician leadership. Throughout the year, STEPS Physician Ambassadors created short videos that reinforced the campaign's key messages and strengthened public trust in physician guidance. KMA leaders also participated in media

interviews and public discussions that highlighted the campaign's goals and encouraged healthier lifestyle choices. KMA President Jiapeng Huang, M.D., Ph.D., was the featured guest on KET's "Kentucky Health" with Wayne Tuckson, M.D. The episode focused on the campaign and was advertised with the tagline, "The KMA is Changing the Model."

The campaign was recognized on the national stage when it received the American Association of Medical Society Executives (AAMSE) Profiles of Excellence Award for Communications. Presented at the AAMSE Annual Meeting in July, the award honors outstanding achievements by medical societies across the country and reflects the campaign's success in expanding public health outreach and physician engagement throughout Kentucky.

As the campaign concludes its second year, the KMA and KFMC thank the many member physicians who have contributed to this incredible effort. Through growing public awareness, engaged physician leadership, and creative statewide reach, Small STEPS, Big Impact has demonstrated that small actions, taken consistently by individuals and with the leadership and support of their physicians, can create lasting improvement in the health of Kentuckians.





Kentucky Physicians:
Leading With Every Step

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KMA ANNUAL MEETING

The 2025 Annual Meeting, themed Kentucky Physicians: Leading with Every Step, reflected KMA's Small STEPS, Big Impact public health initiative and highlighted the many ways physicians improve health through patient care, advocacy, and leadership. Educational programming focused on practical strategies physicians can use to support healthier lifestyles and improve patient outcomes.

Sessions explored topics including nutrition, behavior change, obesity, cardiovascular health, exercise, and overall wellness. Physician Ambassadors for the STEPS campaign also shared their expertise and discussed approaches to improving health through prevention and lifestyle modification. Keynote speaker Jordan Grumet, M.D., challenged attendees to consider the connection between purpose, fulfillment, and personal well-being. Feedback from participants reflected strong engagement and a high level of intent to incorporate lessons learned into practice.



During the House of Delegates, Jiapeng Huang, M.D., Ph.D., an anesthesiologist with UofL Health, was installed as the 2025-2026 KMA President. In his inaugural address, Dr. Huang announced the continuation of the STEPS initiative with a focus on cardiovascular health.

CME GUARANTEE

KMA's CME Guarantee Program is one of the Association's most valued member benefits, providing access to at least 30 hours of Category 1 CME credit during each three-year cycle at no additional cost. Through a combination of live and enduring educational offerings, members can access timely content that supports professional development and high-quality patient care.

One of the program's popular features is the quarterly "Learn with Me" series, led by KMA Past-President Monalisa Tailor, M.D., which introduces physicians to emerging topics across a variety of specialties. Popular sessions during the past year included discussions on tick-borne diseases and the potential health risks associated with popular wellness trends, with a special emphasis on cardiovascular health.

ACCREDITATION & EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

KMA serves as an accredited provider of Continuing Medical Education (CME) and offers accreditation services to eligible organizations in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Missouri. Through accreditation support, provider education, and compliance resources, KMA helps healthcare organizations develop educational programs tailored to the needs of physicians and the communities they serve.

The Association also offers educational partnerships through joint providership agreements, allowing non-accredited organizations to offer accredited CME to their audiences. During the past year, KMA collaborated with hospitals, clinics, specialty societies, and other healthcare organizations to provide CME opportunities across the region. New partnerships, including an agreement with Raleigh General Hospital in West Virginia, further expanded KMA's educational reach while strengthening relationships with healthcare partners to improve patient outcomes.



LEADERSHIP

KENTUCKY PHYSICIANS LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Kentucky Physicians Leadership Institute (KPLI) is KMA's premier physician leadership development program. Since its inception, the program has helped physicians from across Kentucky develop the skills, knowledge, and relationships needed to lead within their practices, communities, and professional organizations.

In 2025, KMA paused the program for a year to conduct a comprehensive review of the curriculum, faculty, and program structure. During this period, more than 100 graduates gathered for a KPLI alumni celebration, where physician leaders shared how the program influenced their professional and personal leadership journeys. Today, KPLI alumni serve in leadership roles throughout organized medicine, including KMA's current President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Treasurer, Secretary, members of the Board of Trustees, and leaders of local medical societies.

The program relaunched in 2026 with updated curriculum, new faculty, and a revised schedule designed to maximize participant interaction and learning. Through sessions focused on personal leadership, organizational management, advocacy, and communications, participants develop practical skills in areas such as emotional intelligence, governance, financial management, storytelling, media engagement, and public leadership.

Sessions are now spaced throughout the summer, allowing additional time for reflection, networking, and relationship-building. Evening social events and the program's signature fireside chats are important components of the experience.

KPLI is made possible through the generous support of the Kentucky Foundation for Medical Care. Beyond their service to KMA, many graduates have gone on to assume leadership positions within healthcare organizations, participate in advocacy efforts, and serve on boards and commissions across the Commonwealth. At the time of this report, ten physicians from across Kentucky are participating in the 2026 program.



ADMINISTRATION

MEMBERSHIP

KMA's membership remains strong, with 6,989 members representing physicians at every stage of their careers. The Association maintains a broad presence across Kentucky's medical community and is focused on strengthening engagement and long-term membership growth.

Several membership trends highlight opportunities for growth. First-year resident membership increased by 14%, reflecting strong engagement among physicians early in their careers and helping build a pipeline for future active membership. KMA also experienced an increase in its Life and Inactive membership categories, demonstrating the Association's ability to maintain connections with physicians as they retire or transition from active practice.

These trends underscore the value of KMA membership throughout a physician's professional journey. From supporting medical students and residents to providing advocacy, leadership development, education, and professional engagement opportunities for practicing and retired physicians, KMA provides value across the full career spectrum and is committed to serving the needs of all physicians throughout the Commonwealth.

BUDGET

KMA's financial story continues to be one of increasing importance of non-dues revenue sources. In 2025, dues revenue decreased, although overall revenue increased by approximately 1%, mostly due to grant funding and income from administrative services provided to specialty societies and other groups. Overall expenses decreased compared to 2024, largely due to reductions in staffing and other resources. As in many years, KMA finished 2025 slightly in the red. Reserve investments and available cash increased as a result of strong market performance.

How the Association applies its resources to member services and programming will continue to evolve. While growth in non-dues revenue has helped strengthen KMA's financial position in recent years, the more diverse the revenue streams become, the more organizational resources are required to support them, which impacts other services and operations. The Budget Committee will continue to explore how to manage these ongoing operational changes, but membership dues will continue to play a major role in KMA's ability to achieve its goals.



ADMINISTRATIVE & ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

KMA's administrative support and society management services have become an increasingly important source of non-dues revenue and have strengthened relationships with specialty societies and other healthcare organizations. Services include meeting planning and management, membership administration, financial management, and communications support.

Over the past year, KMA provided meeting management services for the Kentucky Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, Kentucky Society of Anesthesiologists (KSA), and Kentucky Dermatological Association (KDA), while also providing administrative support to the Kentucky Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons. KMA was also selected to provide meeting management services for the Kentucky Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics' 2026 annual meeting.

In addition to meeting management support, KMA provides full administrative management for KSA and KDA. KMA also provides administrative management services for the Southeastern Delegation to the American Medical Association, an eighteen-state organization representing more than 200 physician leaders.

ADMINISTRATION

DELEGATION TO THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The Kentucky delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) experienced several leadership transitions over the past year. Longtime delegates Greg Cooper, M.D., and David Bensema, M.D., concluded their service to the delegation, while Don Swikert, M.D., assumed the role of delegation chair.

The delegation also recognized the completion of KMA Past President and AMA Immediate Past President Bruce Scott, M.D.'s service on the AMA Board of Trustees. Dr. Scott served on the board for 15 years in several leadership roles, including Young Physicians Section representative, Vice Speaker, Speaker, and ultimately President of the AMA. His leadership, professionalism, and commitment to organized medicine helped guide the organization through a period of significant change in healthcare.

Kentucky's delegates play an active role in shaping AMA policy by reviewing reports and resolutions, participating in reference committee hearings, and representing the interests of Kentucky physicians during House of Delegates proceedings. Among the major issues considered at this year's House of Delegates were Medicaid work requirements, Medicare physician payment reform, prior authorization, physician burnout, scope of practice, and the growing use of artificial intelligence in healthcare.

During the 2026 AMA Annual Meeting, Dr. Swikert served on the Reference Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, while Shawn Jones, M.D., Monalisa Taylor, M.D., and Brent Wright, M.D., served on candidate interview panels for the Southeastern Delegation, helping evaluate candidates for leadership positions.

