

RESOLUTION

Subject: Barriers Preventing Physicians from Running for Public Office

Submitted by: Michael Kuduk, MD (KMA Past President)

Referred to: Reference Committee

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WHEREAS, currently there are 20 physicians serving in Congress as compared to 132 lawyers (Congress.gov); and

WHEREAS, currently there are 86 physicians serving in state legislatures as compared to over 1,000 lawyers (American Bar Association); and

WHEREAS, physician involvement in legislatures is perhaps the most effective method in which physicians can directly advocate for their patients and for public health; and

WHEREAS, significant barriers exist to physician participation in legislatures, such as loss of income, lack of support from employers, inadequate practice coverage, and loss of clinical time; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA shall direct its delegation to our American Medical Association to file a resolution requesting that our AMA study the barriers confronting and preventing physicians from deciding to run for public office, especially state and federal legislatures, with a report back to the AMA House of Delegates at the following annual meeting to inform further development of policy.