AMA PacWest Conference Report:
AMA House of Delegates Annual Meeting June 7 – 12, 2024

I. SUMMARY

The AMA House of Delegates met in-person for the Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, June 7-12, 2024. The PacWest Conference of the following states and territories - Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming – successfully worked together to elect PacWest candidates and pass PacWest-authored and supported resolutions.

II. AMA Elections

President

Bruce A. Scott, MD, an otolaryngologist from Louisville, Kentucky was inaugurated as the 177th President of the AMA.

*"Annual Medicare payment cuts, growing administrative burdens and continued threats to the patient-physician relationship are just some of the challenges contributing to the snowballing problem of physician burnout," the AMA's new president, **Bruce A. Scott, MD**, proclaimed in his inaugural address tonight at the Annual Meeting that he is ready to take them on.*

"As a physician in an independent private practice, I live these issues every day," said Dr. Scott, an otolaryngologist and president of Kentuckiana Ear, Nose & Throat, a private practice based in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky. "I see my colleagues struggling," he added. "I feel the urgency of the moment and I will bring that urgency to my presidency. You better believe I'm ready to fight. Fight for you. Fight for us. Fight for our profession. Fight for our patients."
*Learn how a physician changed the course of Dr. Scott's life as a boy and how **he plans to fight for patients and their doctors**. Inaugural speech here: https://www.ama-assn.org/house-delegates/annual-meeting/new-ama-president-will-fight-doctors-and-their-patients;*

Board of Trustees

David H. Aizuss, MD, ophthalmologist, Los Angeles, CA, elected Chair-Elect.

Toluwalase (Lase) Ajayi, MD, pediatrician, pediatric and adult palliative care specialist and clinical researcher, San Diego, CA, elected Secretary.

Lynn Jeffers, MD, plastic surgeon, Oxnard, CA, elected to the Board.

Council on Medical Services

Steven L. Chen, MD, surgical oncologist, San Diego, CA, re-elected.

Council on Medical Education

Seema Sidhu, MD, obgyn, Fremont, CA, elected.

Council on Science and Public Health

Rachel Ekaireb, MD, surgical resident, UC Davis, elected.

Council on Constitution and Bylaws

Jerry Abraham, MD, family physician, Los Angeles, CA, named Chair.

Council on Long-Range Development & Planning

Jan Kief, MD, internal medicine, Colorado, named Vice Chair.

Erin Harnish, MD, pediatrician, Longview, WA, appointed.

Shilpen Patel, MD, radiation oncologist, Castro Valley, CA, appointed.

III. AMA Meeting Highlights

For highlights of the AMA 2024 Annual meeting, see the link here: https://www.ama-assn.org/house-delegates/annual-meeting/highlights-2024-ama-annual-meeting**;**

Major headlines

-Why Medicare Payment Reform is AMA's Top Priority
-AMA steps up to fight scope creep that threatens patient safety
-Make sure Telehealth has a strong future
-Fix Medicare's broken "buy and bill" drug reimbursement method

-Payers should cover care ordered by out of network doctors
-Give Indian Health Service physicians a head start on loan forgiveness
-Move USMLE Step 3 to pass-fail to boost residents' well-being
-It's time to reform Medicare Advantage payment policies
-In burnout fight, take care with doctors' personal info
-Don't tie physicians' pay to unsustainable Medicare path
-Make sure medical staff has key say on health AI tools
-When health plans delay and deny, they must say why

IV. Resolutions

Below are the resolutions sponsored by PacWest States, actively supported or opposed.

For more details see the Annotated Reports of the Reference Committees and other business here:

https://www.ama-assn.org/house-delegates/annual-meeting/business-ama-house-delegates-annual-meeting;

Reference Committee on Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws

CEJA 01 Short-Term Global Health Clinical Encounters	Adopted
CEJA 03 Establishing Ethical Principles for Physicians Involved in Private Equity Owned Practices	Referred
004 Rights of Newborns that Survive Abortion (PW=Oppose)	Not Adopted
008 Consolidated Health Markets	Adopted
013 Ethical Impetus for Research on Pregnancy and Lactating Individuals	Adopted
014 The Preservation of the Primary Care Relationship	Adopted
015 Health & Racial Equity in Medical Education to Combat Workforce Disparities	Adopted as Amended
019 Support of our Democracy (PW=Amend)	Adopted as Amended

Reference Committee A

102 Medicaid & CHIP Benefit Improvements (Vision/Hearing/Dental)	Referred

CA/PW supported an amend that a benefit expansion not reduce physician reimbursement.

104 Medicaid Estate Recovery Reform — Referred
CA=Support original resolution/PW=Support final Ref Comm

105 & 111 Medigap Patient Protections — Adopted in Lieu of Resolutions
Combined to create strong final recommendations

106 Incorporating Surveillance Colonoscopy Into Colorectal Cancer Screening Continuum — Adopted as Amended

Reference Committee B

BOT 13 Prohibition on Covenants Not to Compete — **CALIFORNIA**
(CA=Amends; PW=Watch) — Adopted in Lieu of
Reference Committee and HOD adopted amendments were finalized in lieu of BOT Report 13 with California's strong support. The action changes the AMA position to oppose all restrictive covenants between employers and physician employees; calls on AMA to update the state restrictive covenants model legislation; and to continue to assist state and specialty societies in developing strategies for physician employee retention.

BOT 14 Physician Assistant and Nurse Practitioner Movement Between Specialties — Adopt as Amended
Adopted amendments consistent with all three CA/ PacWest amendments

207 Biosimilar Use Rates & Prevention of PBM Abuse — Adopted as Amended
Consistent with PacWest amendments

210 & 236 Support for Physicians Pursuing Collective Bargaining & Unionization — **OREGON**
Amendments meet intent of both resolutions. — Adopted in Lieu of

212 Advancing Education Towards a Sustainable Medical Care System — Adopted

213 Access to Covered Benefits with an Out of Network Ordering Physician
CA/PW=Refer; Amends improve the resolution. — Adopted In Lieu of

214 Support for Paid Sick Leave — Adopted as Amended

217 & 226 Protecting Access to IVF Treatment — Adopted in Lieu of
Amendments consistent with intent of CA/PacWest amends.

218 Designation of Descendants of Enslaved Africans in America — Refer/Report Back
Consistent with PW Referral

219 Bundling for Maternity Care Services — Adopted as Amended

220 Restorative Justice for Treatment of Substance Use Disorder — **CALIFORNIA** Adopted as Amended

221 Reforming Medicare Part B Drug Reimbursement to Promote Patient Affordability and Physician Practice Sustainability — **CALIFORNIA** Adopted

222 Studying Avenues for Parity in Mental Health & Substance Use Coverage — Adopted as Amended

250 Endorsement of the Uniform Health-Care Decision Act — Adopted

252 Model Legislation to Protect the Practice of Medicine — Adopted as Amended

Reference Committee C

307 Access to Reproductive Health Services When Completing Physician Certification Exam — **CALIFORNIA** Adoption in Lieu of Amendments consistent with original intent

309 Disaffiliation from the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society due to the Perpetuation of Racial Inequalities in Medicine — Reaffirmed Policy in Lieu of 309

319 AMA Supportive of US Pathways Program — Adoption in Lieu of

Reference Committee D

CSAPH 06 Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Metered Dose Inhalers & Anesthetic Gases — Adopted as Amended

CSAPH 10 Teens and Social Media — Referred

CSAPH 11 Stand Your Ground Laws — Adopted

405 Default Proceed Firearm Sales and Safe Storage Laws — Adopted

414 Addressing the Health Sector's Contributions to the Climate Crisis — **CALIFORNIA** Adopted

415 Building Environmental Resiliency in Health Systems & Physician Practices — **CALIFORNIA** Adopted

416 Furthering Environmental Justice — **CALIFORNIA** Adopted as Amended

417 & 419 Reducing Job-Related Climate Risk Factors/Health Risks Extreme Heat **CALIFORNIA**
Resolutions combined resulting in strong recommendations. Adoption in Lieu of

421 Annual Conference on the State of Obesity & (PW=Oppose)
Its Impact on Disease in America Referred for Decision

425 Perinatal Mental Health Disorders Among Medical Adopted as Amended
Students & Physicians PW=amendments which are consistent with final resolution

Reference Committee E

504 FDA Regulation of Biosimilars and CSAPH 05 Biosimilar/ **CALIFORNIA**
Interchangeability Terminology Resolutions Adopted as Amended
Combined and amendments consistent with original resolution

Reference Committee F

BOT 35 Mitigating the Cost of Medical Student Adopted as Amended
Participation in AMA Meetings PW=amend to move report to A-25; amendment adopted

605 Walking the Walk of Climate Change Adopted in lieu of
Adopted BOT 25 Environmental Sustainability of AMA mtgs in Lieu of 605 (PW=oppose)

607 Appealing to our AMA to add clarity to its mission statement Not Adopted
to better meet the needs of physicians, the practice of medicine, (PW=oppose)
and the public health

Reference Committee G

BOT 30 Proper Use of Overseas Virtual Assistants in Medica Practice Adopted

703 Upholding Physician Autonomy in Evidence-Based Adopted as Amended
Off-Label Prescribing and Condemning Pharmaceutical
Price Manipulation (Amends consistent with PW)

708 Medicolegal Death Investigations Adopted as Amended

711 Insurer Accountability When Prior Authorization Harms Patients Adopted in Lieu of
Combined with 720 The Hazards of Prior Authorization
PW amends to eliminate mandatory arbitration, consistent with amends

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