

Dear SED colleagues,

A month ago, I sent a message out asking for all of us to take a step back from partisanship and reflex decisions and give us all the space and time to consider our next steps—particularly in the realm of advocacy.

As many of you know, there were strident calls for “defunding” any legislator—particularly members of Congress—who voted against certifying the recent election. Threats to stop contributions to AMPAC were often made. I want to take a minute here to offer a different strategy.

AMPAC has a complicated and time-tested set of guidelines for funding of candidates and currently serving legislators. Their business is to achieve the changes we have told the AMA we want to see. I have not been an active AMPAC member in the past, so I may miss listing some of their strategies, but here are the ones I do know about:

- First and foremost, support should go to those who are in the best position to help physicians achieve their advocacy goals. We have issues that need help and we must keep a pathway of communication with those best placed to assist us. It doesn't have to be a large amount of money, but there may be times when we have to eat crow to get the help we need. We can express our concerns and be watchful in case some of the voting on January 6 was for show and not indicative of deep convictions.
- Support should be bi-partisan. Not every member of either party is a pariah.
- AMPAC does not support ANY candidate or legislator whose state medical society does not support them first.
- At this crucial time, we do not have the luxury of “sitting it out”. Physician practices need help and our patients deserve better options for the next pandemic.

While we all wish that all the members of our Nation's leadership were thoughtful, moral and ethical beings, that is unlikely to be the case. AMPAC needs to work with what they have to get the results you want. I believe we can trust AMPAC to consider our concerns and place their support where it will do us the most good.

AMPAC donations were already down and the Insurrection further decreased giving. AMPAC listens to your concerns but they need you to step up to the plate and give like you have in the past and even give more. Times are crucial. Dig deep, think bipartisan and support AMPAC. And trust our AMPAC team to do the right thing. Thank you.