

## Willarda V. Edwards, MD, MBA



MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, proudly nominates Willarda V. Edwards, MD, MBA, FACP, for re-election to our American Medical Association Board of Trustees. She is further endorsed by the Maryland Delegation to the AMA, the Southeastern Delegation, the American College of Physicians, and the National Medical Association.

Dr. Edwards has been committed to organized medicine for over 30 years, holding prominent positions in local, state, and national associations. She is past president of the National Medical Association, MedChi, Baltimore City Medical Society, and Monumental City Medical Society.

Most recently, Dr. Edwards was appointed by the Maryland Department of Health to the statewide Advisory Board for the innovative CMS six-year agreement on its new primary care program. Putting patients first has been this physician's mission in her 10-year tenure on the board of CRISP, the regional health information center in Maryland.

Joining AMA in 1994, Dr. Edwards was appointed to the inaugural governing council of the Women Physicians Congress (now the WPS) and later served as chair. For over 20 years, her service to our AMA spans from reference committees and task forces to chair of the AMA's HOD Committee on Compensation of the Officers and the AMA Council on Constitution and Bylaws.

After completing active duty in the Navy, Dr. Edwards founded an internal medicine practice in Baltimore, where she is now the managing partner. She retired from the U.S. Navy Reserves at the rank of commander after 24 years of service. In addition to her busy private practice and AMA responsibilities, Dr. Edwards held senior management positions at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Health Advocacy Division and at the Sickle Cell Association of America.

Elected to the Board of Trustees four years ago, Dr. Edwards has demonstrated hard work, leadership skills, and consensus building. She chaired the Task Force on Health Equity, resulting in the House of Delegates establishing the AMA Health Equity Center. She has led discussions with physicians, regulators, state and federal legislators, and other stakeholders on the opioid crisis, health care for all, surprise billing, and issues of concern to future physicians, our medical students.

Dr. Edwards knows the balance needed in a physician's work life and the need to maintain our educational sharpness in the delivery of quality care and, respectfully, asks for your vote for re-election to Board of Trustees.

**Personal statement:**

*"It has been an honor to serve in our ground-up, policy-making association that welcomes and is built on the perspective of all specialties, practice settings and stages of practice; it is what makes our AMA the leading advocate for America's patients and physicians."*