

TEXAS MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 107  
A-09

Subject: Physician Identification

Introduced by: Harris County Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee on Financial and Organizational Affairs

---

1 Whereas, The general public has been conditioned to assume that anyone in a white lab coat is a “doctor”;  
2 and

3  
4 Whereas, The general public often does not differentiate between “physicians” who went to medical  
5 school and are licensed to practice medicine in Texas by the Texas Medical Board, and “doctors” who  
6 may be PhDs, chiropractors, podiatrists, and the like; and

7  
8 Whereas, Anyone in the practice of health care can wear a white coat with “Dr.” embroidered before his  
9 or her name; and

10  
11 Whereas, The use of the prefix “Dr.” or “Doctor” could easily give patients the misimpression that the  
12 individual is a medical doctor who has graduated from medical school and is licensed to practice  
13 medicine in Texas by the Texas Medical Board; therefore be it

14  
15 RESOLVED, That the Texas Medical Association urge the Texas Legislature to require anyone with  
16 direct patient care contact for a medical condition prominently display or clearly identify his or her name,  
17 the degree held, and his or her specialty. This identification must be displayed on a lab coat or ID badge,  
18 if worn; on the main entrance of the individual’s practice; and on any promotional materials distributed to  
19 the general public.