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**www.hcms.org**

**Four Reasons NOT to join Harris County Medical Society and Texas Medical Association**

April 2015

Name

Address1

Address2

City

State, Zip

Dear Dr.

There are four key reasons **NOT** to join HCMS/TMA:

1. **If you believe Tort Reform should be repealed.** TMA and HCMS oppose any measures to weaken or repeal the tort reforms, passed in 2003. Regular attempts to water down the law include increasing the caps on punitive damages and non-economic damages. Although the law reversed the exodus of Texas doctors and reduced malpractice premiums approximately 46 percent, there are special interest groups that oppose this position.
2. **If you support expansion of scope of practice beyond training.** TMA and HCMS oppose all bills that would change the scope of practice for non-physician practitioners. This legislative session, TMA is opposing bills that would give advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) independent prescriptive authority and explicit authority to make a medical diagnosis; expand the scope of therapeutic optometry and give optometrists the authority to perform some eye surgery as well as administer and prescribe Schedule II drugs; and allow chiropractors to examine student athletes for concussions.
3. **If you believe government, health plans, healthcare systems, chiropractors and trial lawyers should define the practice of medicine for you.** TMA and HCMS, the largest state and county medical associations in the nation, are run by physicians for physicians and their patients. We represent 70% of Texas’ physicians across all specialties and practice settings. We maintain that physicians must play a key role in providing distinctive solutions to the challenges physicians encounter in the care of patients in Texas, holding that no one should interfere with the physician-patient relationship.
4. **If you trust that payers are committed to reducing your administrative hassles, paying you all that you are due, and streamlining payer infrastructure across all plans to save you money.** TheHCMS Payment Advocacy Department has collected over $20 million in reimbursements from payers for our physician members since 2000, which they would not have received without HCMS assistance. In addition, the department has brought about changes in insurance policies, resulting not only in millions of dollars in savings but also reductions in administrative hassles. Members were charged $0 for these services.

If you disagree with the four reasons above, that should be enough to join TMA/HCMS TODAY. However, membership also includes close to 100 additional benefits.

Joining is simple. It can be done online - [www.hcms.org/membership/become-member-renew/](http://www.hcms.org/membership/become-member-renew/)or you can complete the attached form which offers an option to pay in fee-free installments. If you have any questions, call Regina Palasota at 713-524-4267, ext. 243.

Sincerely,

Bradford S. Patt, MD

President, HCMS