



Physicians Caring for Texans

HOW TO WRITE A RESOLUTION

A resolution is a way to express an idea or identify a problem or opportunity.

Only county societies, sections, and voting members of the House of Delegates may submit resolutions.

At the grassroots level, the best way to introduce an idea or a change to be adopted as TMA policy is to present it at a county medical society meeting. If the society agrees, the delegate presents the recommendation as a resolution from the county society at the next meeting of the TMA House of Delegates (HOD). If the county medical society does not agree with the idea or change, any delegate or HOD voting ex officio member may submit the resolution directly for house consideration. TMA sections also may submit resolutions. Boards, councils, and committees (and sections) also develop ideas and recommend actions through reports (not resolutions) to the house.

Although resolutions may deal with complex issues, most begin simply when a TMA member recognizes a problem and offers a solution. Resolutions are structured to express the background of the problem in “whereas” clauses and to specify a specific position or course of action in one or more “resolved” statement(s).

In addition to its “whereas” clauses and “resolved” recommendations, each resolution forwarded for House of Delegates consideration should include:

- A title that is self-explanatory.
- The name of the individual or delegation who submits the resolution.
- Citations of relevant TMA policy to facilitate independent review by delegates of pending resolutions. If the resolution is asking for action at the American Medical Association level, relevant AMA policy also must be included.

To search for relevant TMA policy, go to:

<https://www.texmed.org/Policy/>

Or you can navigate the TMA website at: www.texmed.org, click on About TMA, then click TMA Leadership, then What’s Our Policy for the *TMA Policy Compendium*.

To search for relevant AMA policy, visit <https://www.ama-assn.org/about/policyfinder>.

Please note that only the resolved statements of resolutions are acted upon by the house and become association policy statements or directives.

If members need assistance in writing or how to submit a resolution, contact your county society or TMA staff for assistance.

Should a resolution require funds that are not included in the current year’s budget, TMA staff will add a fiscal note indicating the financial implications of the recommendations contained in the resolution.

Resolutions should be emailed to hod@texmed.org

Following is an example of a resolution:

Subject: Health Savings Accounts for Medicare Beneficiaries
Introduced by: Tarrant County Medical Society
Referred to: (Speaker and vice speaker will refer to a reference committee)

Whereas, Medicare beneficiaries have large deductibles and copayments; and

Whereas, Medicare often does not pay for medical expenses for uncovered medications, durable medical equipment, or services; and

Whereas, Medicare funding is likely to be reduced by trillions of dollars over the next two decades; and

Whereas, Medicare beneficiaries face large and increasing medical expenses that Medicare will not pay; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Texas Medical Association adopt as policy that Medicare beneficiaries be permitted to make tax-free contributions to health savings accounts; and be it further

RESOLVED, That TMA urge Congress to make changes in federal laws permitting Medicare beneficiaries to make tax-free contributions to health savings accounts; and be it further

RESOLVED, That our Texas Delegation to the American Medical Association take this resolution to the AMA House of Delegates for consideration.

Relevant TMA Policy:

120.001 Health Care Reform: The Texas Medical Association voted to weigh heavily in its evaluation of health care reform proposals the following concepts: . . .

- Establish tax credits for deposits to individual Health Savings Accounts from which individuals would use their own money to pay small medical expenses without penalty;
- Allow private insurers to repackage Medicare benefits and establish diverse policies tailored to the different needs of Medicare beneficiaries;
- Give the elderly and future elderly and their employers tax incentives to self-insure through Health Savings Accounts.

Relevant AMA Policy:

H-330.912 Appropriate Medical Coverage for Medicare Beneficiaries: Our AMA will continue to stress that regulations should move in the direction of free market choice of plans. (BOT Rep. 16, A-99; reaffirmed CMS Rep. 5, A-09)