



Physicians Caring for Texans

TMA RESOLUTION PROCESS

What is a resolution?

A resolution is a mechanism for introducing recommendations on an idea, problem, or opportunity for the TMA House of Delegates (HOD) to discuss, debate, and act upon for the Texas Medical Association.

Who can introduce a resolution?

County medical societies, TMA sections, and voting members of the House of Delegates (including ex-officio members) can introduce a resolution.

How does a resolution get introduced?

A member of a county medical society or section writes a draft of an idea, problem, or opportunity, and presents it at a county medical society meeting or section meeting. If the county medical society or section agrees, it will submit the resolution to the TMA House of Delegates office for consideration at the next annual session. If the county medical society or section does not agree, any delegate or HOD voting ex-officio member may submit the resolution directly for house consideration.

How do I write a resolution?

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 recommend a specific position or action in one or more “resolved” statement(s).

TIP: To find out whether the TMA House of Delegates has previously taken action on a topic, search the TMA Audit Trail Library at www.texmed.org/TMAAuditTrailLibrary.

In addition to the “whereas” clauses and “resolved” recommendations, each resolution forwarded for consideration should include:

- A title that is brief and self-explanatory;
- The name of the individual or delegation submitting the resolution;
- Citations of relevant TMA policy to facilitate independent review by delegates of pending resolutions, and, if the resolution asks for action by the American Medical Association, relevant AMA policy; and
- A listing of sources referenced within the resolution.

To search for relevant TMA policy, go to www.texmed.org/Policy/.

To search for relevant AMA policy, visit 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.

Should a resolution require funds 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.

Where do I submit my resolution?

Email resolutions to brad.burnett@texmed.org or hod@texmed.org.

If you need assistance in writing or submitting a resolution, contact your county society or TMA staff. Also see the SAMPLE RESOLUTION at the end of this document.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What actions can a resolution call for?

A: Possible actions include:

- Adding policy to the Policy Compendium,
- Forwarding an issue to AMA,
- Lobbying a piece of legislation,
- Developing education,
- Forming a task force on the issue,
- Further study by the relevant TMA component,
- Working with regulatory agencies, or
- Implementing community initiatives.

Q: Does the HOD consider only resolutions as business?

A: No. TMA boards, councils, committees, and sections also develop ideas and recommend actions through reports (not resolutions) to the HOD.

Q: Can I write a resolution on any topic?

A: The resolution, and its recommendation(s), can be related to any topic that directly involves the practice of medicine, and physicians in particular. **A good rule of thumb is to focus on what role physicians can play in addressing the issue.**

Q: Will I have the opportunity to speak on my resolution?

A: All TMA members have the opportunity to testify on any resolution, including their own, during the annual session of the TMA House of Delegates at reference committee hearings held the Friday morning of the meeting. Members of the house also may extract an item for debate before the house at the Saturday session of the House of Delegates.

When providing testimony before a reference committee or the house, be sure to cite: (1) your name, (2) whom you represent, (3) whether you have any conflicts, and (4) your position on the item.

Q: What if I need to make an amendment to my resolution after I have submitted it?

A: Proposed amendments can be presented as testimony during the reference committee hearing. Amendments also may be offered on the floor during the Saturday session, if the item is extracted for debate and is not recommended for referral. If the reference committee has recommended the item for referral, a motion to defeat referral must be approved before amendments can be accepted.

Q: If my resolution is referred, does that mean nothing will come of it?

A: Only an approved recommendation to “not adopt” will halt a resolution. Resolutions that have been referred will move to a TMA board, council, or committee for study and a report back to the house. This ensures TMA will take a close look at the issue to determine possible action.

Q: How can I follow the course of my resolution once it is voted on by the House of Delegates?

A: View the following documents on the House of Delegates webpage at www.texmed.org/HOD:

1. **Summary of Actions:** A record of how the house voted on each item of business (adopted, adopted with amendments, not adopted, or referred).
2. **Audit Trail:** A tracking document for action items adopted or referred by the house. This includes which component(s) will be responsible for the item. A status report on each item will be added to this document and submitted to the house at the next annual session.

SAMPLE RESOLUTION:

TEXAS MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution XXX
A-XX

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... (Council on Socioeconomics, p 150, I-92; amended CSE Rep. 3-A-04; amended CSE Rep. 3-A-14).

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).

Sources:

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. www.cms.gov. Accessed 3/30/17.