

WISCONSIN DELEGATION TO THE AMA

2010 ANNUAL MEETING REPORT ON RESOLUTIONS
SUBMITTED BY WISCONSIN MEDICAL SOCIETY

The American Medical Association Annual meeting was held June 13-17, 2009 in Chicago.

The Wisconsin Delegation introduced Resolution 736.

RESOLUTION 736 – MEMBERSHIP IN THE MEDICAL STAFF

RESOLUTION 736 – MEMBERSHIP IN THE MEDICAL STAFF

RECOMMENDATION A:

Mr. Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that Resolution 736 be amended by insertion and deletion on lines 19-21 to read as follows:

RECOMMENDATION B:

Mr. Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that Resolution 736 be adopted as amended.

HOD ACTION: Resolution 736 adopted as amended.

Resolution 736 asks our AMA to study how hospital medical staffs involve physician assistants and nurse practitioners in the activities of hospital medical staffs--especially concerning patient care, safety, quality and ethical issues.

Your Reference Committee heard generally supportive testimony on this resolution. Speakers noted the need to survey hospitals to ascertain the different models that are being used to involve allied health professionals, including nurse practitioners and physician assistants, in the activities of organized medical staffs. Your Reference Committee concurs with the suggestion that the study should address all allied health professionals and not be restricted solely to physician assistants and nurse practitioners. Your Reference Committee recommends that Resolution 736 be adopted as amended.

The American Medical Association Interim meeting was held November 6-10, 2009 in Houston.

The Wisconsin Delegation introduced Resolution 604.

RESOLUTION 604 – HEALTHCARE REFORM DEBATE
AND ITS EFFECT ON AMA MEMBERSHIP

**RESOLUTION 604 – HEALTHCARE REFORM DEBATE
AND ITS EFFECT ON AMA MEMBERSHIP**

Mr. Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that Resolution 604 not be adopted.

HOD ACTION: Resolution 604 not adopted.

Resolution 604 calls upon our AMA to freeze the number/apportionment of Delegates and Alternate Delegates from constituent societies in the House of Delegates at the current levels for one year. The resolution cites the actions of our AMA on the current Health System Reform effort as a possible catalyst for notable decreases in membership numbers, which could cause the delegation size of affected constituent societies to shrink.

Your Reference Committee received testimony from state delegates calling for adoption of this resolution. State delegations indicated they anticipate a decline in membership due to the actions of our AMA leadership with regard to Health System Reform efforts. These delegates testified that the establishment of a one-year freeze would allow state delegations to remain productive in a time of uncertainty, and would provide adequate time for state delegations to raise membership numbers.

The Board of Trustees indicated that should there be a decline in membership, as described by the author and those who testified before this Reference Committee, it would be reflected in the 2011 membership figures. If state delegations were due to lose representation at that point, the already established policy of providing a one-year grace period to affected societies would apply. Through this process, any state membership loss attributable to Health System Reform actions of our AMA would not be reflected in an actual loss of delegate seats until 2012. Thus, a one year freeze at this time would not achieve the goal as described in Resolution 604.