

Dear Doctors Rohack, Wilson, Nielsen and Maves:

Last night, the Executive Committee of the Council of the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) met in special session for over 90 minutes to discuss our AMA's current action and strategy with regard to national health care reform and, more specifically, HR 3200. We had a very energetic and thoughtful debate. I am pleased to advise that MSSNY supports our AMA's current strategy on this legislation.

It is clear to MSSNY's leadership that our AMA Board has given these historic issues serious thought and consideration. You have chosen a strong and unwavering path of leadership on one of the watershed issues of our generation. We congratulate you!

As you correctly point out, HR 3200 is not a perfect bill. Issues remain such as immediate and long term fiscal impact, the final structure of a public plan option, the urgent need for medical liability reform and anti-trust protection to enable physicians to collectively negotiate. We have absolute trust that our AMA leadership will work tirelessly to effect the necessary changes in the final legislation to meet the needs of our membership and our patients. The physicians of New York are committed to being part of this team effort. In fact, I will be in Washington tomorrow, meeting with some members of our Congressional delegation.

We look forward to working with our AMA as we proceed on the journey to reform America's health care delivery system to ensure that it provides all Americans the highest quality health care at the lowest possible cost in the least restrictive and most accessible environment.

Thank you so very much for all that you are doing.

Sincerely,

David T. Hannan, MD, MPA
President