

1 **MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK 2026 HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

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3 **Report of the Reference Committee on Reports of Officers and Administrative**  
4 **Matters (ROAM)**

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6 Presented by: Matthew T. Rivera, MD, Chair

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8 Dr. Speaker and Members of the House of Delegates:

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10 Your Reference Committee recommends the following consent calendar for acceptance:

11  
12 **RECOMMEND FOR ADOPTION**

- 13 1. Resolution 204 - Reclassification between the Medical Student Section (MSS),  
14 Resident and Fellow Section (RFS), and Young Physician Section (YPS)  
15 2. Resolution 209 (Late E) – American Medical Association Board Chair Term Limits  
16

17 **RECOMMEND FOR ADOPTION AS AMENDED**

- 18 3. Resolution 200 - Plant-Based Diets at MSSNY meetings  
19 4. Resolution 206 - Practice Compliance Toolkit for NY's Fair Medical Debt  
20 Reporting Act  
21

22 **RECOMMEND FOR ADOPTION IN LIEU OF**

- 23 5. Resolution 203 - Proposal to Shorten the MSSNY House of Delegates Meeting  
24 by One Day  
25

26 **RECOMMENDED FOR REFERRAL TO COUNCIL**

- 27 6. Resolution 202 - Scheduling a Formal Debate at the 2027 MSSNY HOD on the  
28 Merits & Concerns of the New York Health Act  
29 7. Resolution 208 - Guardrails for Physician Employers Resolution  
30

31 **RECOMMEND REAFFIRMATION IN LIEU OF**

- 32 8. Resolution 201 - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest at House of Delegates  
33 9. Resolution 205 - Procedures to improve membership retention  
34

35 **RECOMMENDED FOR NOT ADOPTION**

- 36 10. Resolution 207 - Improving the Effectiveness of the AMA Board of Trustees  
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1 **RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION**

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3 1. Resolution 204 - Reclassification of Medical Students, Residents, and Young  
4 Physicians

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6 The original resolution 204 reads as follows:

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8 RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) update its  
9 update its membership classification policy to allow for reclassification between the  
10 Medical Student Section (MSS), Resident and Fellow Section (RFS), and Young  
11 Physician Section (YPS) effective upon graduation from medical school or completion of  
12 residency or fellowship training, and that MSSNY communicate and implement this  
13 policy across its membership systems and section procedures to ensure accurate  
14 classification and continuous engagement of members throughout each stage of their  
15 professional journey.

16  
17 **RECOMMENDATION:**

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19 **YOUR REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT RESOLUTION 204 BE**  
20 **ADOPTED.**

21  
22 Testimony was overwhelmingly in support for this resolution. Clarification was received  
23 from leadership that this would be an internal procedures change and does not require  
24 bylaws changes. Therefore, the Reference Committee recommends adoption.

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26  
27 2. Resolution 209 (Late E) – American Medical Association Board Chair Term Limits

28  
29 The original resolution 209 reads as follows:

30  
31 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association Board of Trustees commission an  
32 independent assessment by recognized nonprofit governance experts to evaluate best  
33 practices in board-chair term lengths, leadership continuity, and succession planning  
34 within large national nonprofit and professional membership organizations; and be it  
35 further

36 RESOLVED, that this independent assessment examine how board-chair tenure and  
37 leadership succession structures influence the Board of Trustees’ ability to provide  
38 consistent oversight of senior management, monitor multi-year strategic and operational  
39 performance goals, preserve institutional knowledge, and maintain accountability to the  
40 House of Delegates and American Medical Association (AMA) membership; and be it  
41 further

42  
43 RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees provide the full report of the independent  
44 assessment, including benchmarking analyses and governance recommendations, to  
45 the House of Delegates no later than the 2027 Annual Meeting of the American Medical  
46 Association (AMA); and be it further

1 RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees review the findings of the independent  
2 assessment and present to the House of Delegates at the 2027 Annual Meeting specific  
3 recommendations regarding governance best practices for board-chair tenure and  
4 leadership continuity, including any proposed amendments to the American Medical  
5 Association (AMA) Constitution and Bylaws for consideration by the House of  
6 Delegates; and be it further  
7

8 RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York sponsor this resolution  
9 at the 2026 Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association.

10  
11 **RECOMMENDATION:**

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13 **YOUR REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT RESOLUTION 209 BE**  
14 **ADOPTED.**

15  
16 Testimony was heard in support from several physicians and few delegations. However,  
17 as this was a late resolution, the Reference Committee would like to note there was  
18 limited time for members to prepare and present testimony. No virtual testimony was  
19 received, and no written testimony was received. As this resolution received support  
20 and is in the best interest of the Society, the Reference Committee recommends  
21 adoption.

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23 **RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION AS AMENDED**

24  
25 3. Resolution 200 - Plant-Based Diets at MSSNY meetings

26  
27 The original resolution 200 reads as follows:

28  
29 RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York increases the availability  
30 and prominence of plant-based meal options at MSSNY-sponsored meetings and  
31 conferences; and be it further; and be it further  
32

33 RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York encourages the use of  
34 evidence-based behavioral science strategies, such as choice architecture and nudging,  
35 to promote healthier dietary choices at professional gatherings, while respecting  
36 individual autonomy; and be it further  
37

38 RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York recognizes the  
39 importance of modeling prevention through food choices at its own meetings, with an  
40 emphasis on increasing the plant-based food choice options which also contain minimal  
41 contributions from animal products, as an exemplary method for the promotion of  
42 individual and planetary health; and be it further  
43

44 RESOLVED, that a similarly worded resolution be forwarded to the American Medical  
45 Association (AMA) to institute the same policies in our AMA and AMA-sponsored  
46 meetings.

1 **RECOMMENDATION A:**

2  
3 **YOUR REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE SECOND AND THIRD**  
4 **RESOLVES BE AMENDED BY SUBSTITUTION.**

5  
6 ~~RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York encourages the use of~~  
7 ~~evidence-based behavioral science strategies, such as choice architecture and nudging,~~  
8 ~~to promote healthier dietary choices at professional gatherings, while respecting~~  
9 ~~individual autonomy; and be it further~~

10  
11 ~~RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York recognizes the~~  
12 ~~importance of modeling prevention through food choices at its own meetings, with an~~  
13 ~~emphasis on increasing the plant-based food choice options which also contain minimal~~  
14 ~~contributions from animal products, as an exemplary method for the promotion of~~  
15 ~~individual and planetary health; and be it further~~

16  
17 RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of the State of New York encourages the use of  
18 evidence-based behavioral science to promote healthier dietary choices at professional  
19 gatherings and recognizes the importance of modeling prevention through food choices  
20 while respecting individual autonomy, with an emphasis on increasing plant-based food  
21 options as an exemplary method for the promotion of individual and planetary health;  
22 and be it further;

23  
24 **RECOMMENDATION B:**

25  
26 **YOUR REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT RESOLUTION 200 BE**  
27 **ADOPTED AS AMENDED.**

28  
29 Testimony in support cited health and environmental benefits of plant-based diets and  
30 the importance of physicians modeling healthy behaviors. Testimony not in support  
31 expressed concern about the appropriateness of the society influencing dietary choices.  
32 Overall, testimony supported expanding plant-based options while maintaining variety  
33 and individual choice.

34  
35 4. Resolution 206 - Practice Compliance Toolkit for NY's Fair Medical Debt Reporting  
36 Act

37  
38 The original resolution 206 reads as follows:

39  
40 RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York develop and disseminate  
41 a Practice Compliance Toolkit to help physicians comply with the Fair Medical Debt  
42 Reporting Act and related GBL provisions, including model patient notices and workflow  
43 checklists.

44  
45 **RECOMMENDATION A:**

1 **YOUR REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE RESOLVE BE**  
2 **AMENDED BY INSERTION AND DELETION.**

3  
4 RESOLVED, that Medical Society of the State of New York develop and disseminate a  
5 Practice Compliance Toolkit to help physicians comply with ~~the Fair Medical Debt~~  
6 ~~Reporting Act and related GBL provisions~~ all applicable laws and regulations governing  
7 the reporting of medical debt to consumer credit reporting agencies, including model  
8 patient notices and workflow checklists.

9  
10 **RECOMMENDATION B:**

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12 **YOUR REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT RESOLUTION 200 BE**  
13 **ADOPTED AS AMENDED.**

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15 **RECOMMENDATION C:**

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17 **YOUR REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THE TITLE OF RESOLUTION**  
18 **206 BE CHANGED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:**

19  
20 Practice Compliance Toolkit for ~~NY's Fair Medical Debt Reporting Act~~

21  
22 Testimony indicated that the resolution is timely and would provide helpful guidance to  
23 physician practices navigating new regulatory requirements. Testimony noted that  
24 smaller practices may not always be aware of the complexities and nuances associated  
25 with these requirements and that a compliance toolkit could assist members in  
26 understanding and meeting these obligations. The Reference Committee made minor  
27 amendments to the resolution to remove references to specific legislation or statutes  
28 while carefully preserving the intent of the resolution.

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31 **RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION IN LIEU OF**

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33 5. Resolution 203 - Shortening the House of Delegates Meeting

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35 The original resolution 203 reads as follows:

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37 RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of the State of New York revise the structure of  
38 its annual House of Delegates meeting by shortening it by one day, with virtual  
39 Reference Committee hearings held in advance to support member engagement and  
40 streamline the in-person proceedings

41  
42 **RECOMMENDATION A:**

43  
44 **YOUR REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE FOLLOWING**  
45 **SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION BE ADOPTED IN LIEU OF ORIGINAL RESOLUTION**  
46 **203.**

1  
2 RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York shall set up a task force,  
3 to include a member of the finance committee and a member of the membership  
4 committee, to investigate the financial implications of shortening its annual house of  
5 delegates and how this may impact member engagement.  
6

7 Testimony was split. Those in support emphasized the need for fiscal responsibility and  
8 the difficulties of traveling to multiple day in-person meetings. Those in opposition to the  
9 original resolution expressed concerns about losing the opportunity to foster  
10 relationships among members and collegiality in the society. The Reference Committee  
11 received a proposed substitute resolution to further investigate the opportunity costs of  
12 shortening the House of Delegates. The Committee felt this task force would be in the  
13 best interest of the Society and allow for clarity on this matter.  
14

15  
16 **RECOMMENDED FOR REFERRAL TO COUNCIL**  
17

18 **6. Resolution 202 - Formal Debate on the New York Health Act**  
19

20 The original resolution 202 reads as follows:  
21

22 RESOLVED, that the Speaker of the Medical Society of the State of New York House of  
23 Delegates Speaker will schedule a formal debate of the evidence, using Public Forum,  
24 Policy, Persuasive, or similar format addressing the merits and concerns of the New  
25 York Health Act on the first morning of the 2027 House of Delegates, and a report of that  
26 debate shall be presented to the ensuing House of Delegates.  
27

28 **YOUR REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT RESOLUTION 202 BE**  
29 **REFERRED TO COUNCIL**  
30

31 Testimony in support indicated that providing an opportunity for structured debate on the  
32 topic could be valuable for members. However, several speakers suggested that such a  
33 debate would be more appropriate during the education day prior to the House meeting  
34 rather than during House floor proceedings, and concerns were raised regarding House  
35 rules and procedures. There was some discussion about the timeliness of the topic. The  
36 Reference Committee recognized the range of opinions and the potential value of such  
37 discussion and therefore recommends referral to Council to determine the appropriate  
38 time and venue for this matter.  
39

40  
41 **7. Resolution 208 - Guardrails for Physician Employers**  
42

43 The original resolution 208 reads as follows:  
44

1 RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York create a work group  
2 within its Employed Physician Committee to investigate potential guardrails to protect  
3 our members and their patients from adverse rulings by employers; and be it further  
4

5 RESOLVED, that a similarly worded resolution be referred to the American Medical  
6 Association for consideration.  
7

8 **YOUR REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT RESOLUTION 208 BE**  
9 **REFERRED TO COUNCIL**

10  
11 Testimony supported the concept but indicated the resolution lacked specificity and  
12 clarity and could have unintended consequences for smaller physician employers.  
13 Given the complexity of the issue and the need to further evaluate how best to support  
14 and advocate for employed physician members, the Reference Committee recommends  
15 referral to Council for further study and clarification. The Reference Committee also  
16 notes that existing MSSNY Policy 150.995 addresses related matters.  
17

18  
19 **RECOMMENDED FOR REAFFIRMATION IN LIEU OF**  
20

21 **8. Resolution 201 - Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest at House of Delegates**  
22

23 The original resolution 201 reads as follows:  
24

25 RESOLVED, that all individuals providing oral or written testimony before a reference  
26 committee or the Medical Society of the State of New York House of Delegates shall be  
27 required to disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest before  
28 testifying; and be it further  
29

30 RESOLVED, that such disclosures shall be recorded in the official hearing record to  
31 ensure transparency and accountability; and be it further  
32

33 RESOLVED, that the Speaker, reference committee chair, or designee shall inform  
34 prospective testifiers of this disclosure requirement in advance of the hearing and  
35 ensure compliance before accepting testimony.  
36

37 **YOUR REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE MEDICAL SOCIETY**  
38 **OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK POLICY 207.977 BE REAFFIRMED IN LIEU OF**  
39 **RESOLUTION 201**  
40

41 Testimony in support favored conflict of interest disclosure to improve transparency and  
42 evaluation of testimony. Testimony in opposition asserted that existing procedures  
43 already address the necessity of such disclosure. The Reference Committee noted that  
44 the resolution directs the actions of House officers and pertains to internal House  
45 procedures, which are generally governed by House rules rather than policy resolutions.  
46

1           **207.977           Conflict of Interest**

2           MSSNY has adopted policy which strives to ensure that Councilors, Officers,  
3           Trustees, Committee Members or key employees will not act to further their  
4           personal benefit or in a way which is contrary to the interests of the  
5           organization. The Conflict of Interest Annual Disclosure Form will be submitted  
6           prior to election, by each officer, councilor, director, trustee, member, owner or  
7           employee on an annual basis. (Reaffirmed Council 5/22/2014; Reaffirmed HOD  
8           2019 in lieu of res 206)

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11   9. Resolution 205 - Procedures to Improve Membership Retention

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13   The original resolution 205 reads as follows:

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15   RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York adopt policies and  
16   optimize use of and take advantage of electronic membership/registration platforms to  
17   improve membership registration and retention with the following recommendations:

- 18           1. Ensure that all member demographics are confirmed at each interaction with a  
19           member: correct preferred mailing address, correct preferred email address,  
20           correct preferred work fax, and preferred method of contact.
- 21           2. When payment is made for membership, autorenewal would be the default  
22           setting with an option to opt out to make payment for one year only if that is  
23           preferred instead (similar to other subscriptions such as medical journal  
24           subscriptions, cable channels, utility bills, gym memberships etc).
- 25           3. Electronic Membership platforms can be utilized to generate automated email  
26           reminders to renew membership in October, November, December, January,  
27           and February of each year.
- 28           4. When a member's credit card information is about to expire, the electronic  
29           membership/registration platform can send the member a reminder to update  
30           credit card information online.

31  
32   **RECOMMENDATION:**

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34   **YOUR REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE MEDICAL SOCIETY**  
35   **OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK POLICY 200.995 BE REAFFIRMED IN LIEU OF**  
36   **RESOLUTION 205.**

37  
38   Testimony in support favored automated membership renewal systems to improve  
39   retention and reduce administrative burden, noting that opt-out auto-renewal systems  
40   are commonly used by other organizations. Concerns were expressed that auto-  
41   renewals could catch some members off guard. The Reference Committee concluded  
42   that the resolution is overly prescriptive and mirrors existing policy. Therefore, the  
43   Reference Committee recommends reaffirmation of existing policy.

44  
45           **200.995           Innovative Methods to Improve Membership via Periodic Credit**  
46           **Card Membership Charges:**

1 MSSNY will look at innovative ways to reduce the burden of membership dues and  
2 that urgent, innovative and aggressive measures to increase membership in  
3 MSSNY must be undertaken, including automatically charging membership  
4 payments to credit cards on a periodic basis subject to the agreement of the  
5 physician. (HOD 2006-206; Reaffirmed HOD 2016)  
6  
7

8 **RECOMMENDED NOT FOR ADOPTION**  
9

10 10. Resolution 207 - Improving the Effectiveness of the AMA Board of Trustees  
11

12 RESOLVED, that the Medical Society of the State of New York advocates that the  
13 American Medical Association (AMA) amends its Constitution and Bylaws to limit the  
14 AMA Board of Trustees terms to a lifetime maximum of two 4-year non-consecutive  
15 terms, with at least 1 full-term between non-consecutive terms, except for 1 term of  
16 Board Chair which may be additive; and be it further  
17

18 RESOLVED, the American Medical Association (AMA) Board of Trustee term is a 2-  
19 year term, which may be in addition to the Board of Trustees 4-year term; and be it  
20 further  
21

22 RESOLVED, that the American Medical Association (AMA) narrows the AMA Board by  
23 removing the Medical Student Trustee / section seat and the Public Trustee set.  
24

25 **YOUR REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT RESOLUTION 207 NOT BE**  
26 **ADOPTED**  
27

28 Testimony was mostly in opposition and emphasized the value of medical student and  
29 public trustee representation. Testimony also expressed that the structure and term  
30 limits of the AMA Board should be determined by the AMA rather than state medical  
31 societies. The Reference Committee agreed that the structure and term limits of the  
32 AMA Board should be determined by the AMA and recommends not for adoption.  
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1 **Your Reference Committee Chair is grateful to the committee members, namely,**  
2 **Hudson Jakubowicz - Medical Student, Toni-Ann Lewis, MD, William R. Latreille,**  
3 **Jr., MD, and Stacey Watt, MD. The Reference Committee also wishes to express**  
4 **appreciation to Jennifer Lepurage for her help in the preparation of this report.**  
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6

7 Respectfully submitted,  
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11 Matthew T. Rivera, MD  
12 Chair, Chautauqua County  
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\_\_\_\_\_ Hudson Jakubowicz – Medical Student  
Medical Student Section - Bronx

17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 Toni-Ann Lewis, MD  
19 Young Physician Section - Kings  
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22  
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\_\_\_\_\_ William R. Latreille, Jr., MD  
Past Speaker - Franklin

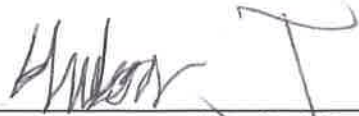
24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 Stacey Watt, MD  
26 8th District Councilor - Erie  
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1 Your Reference Committee Chair is grateful to the committee members, namely,  
2 Hudson Jakubowicz - Medical Student, Toni-Ann Lewis, MD, William R. Latreille, Jr.,  
3 MD, and Stacey Watt, MD. The Reference Committee also wishes to express  
4 appreciation to Jennifer Lepurage for her help in the preparation of this report.  
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6

7 Respectfully submitted,  
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10

11 Matthew T. Rivera, MD  
12 Chair, Chautauqua County

  
13

14 Hudson Jakubowicz - Medical Student  
15 Medical Student Section - Bronx

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18 Toni-Ann Lewis, MD  
19 Young Physician Section - Kings

  
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21 William R. Latreille, Jr., MD  
22 Past Speaker - Franklin

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25 Stacey Watt, MD  
26 8th District Councilor - Erie  
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