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# NKMS Society

## Rounds

Supplemental

August 2009

### H.R. 3200

On Wednesday, August 5th, the Board of Trustees of the KMA gathered in Louisville at the KMA headquarters for their quarterly Board Meeting. This summer meeting was particularly busy, since it sets the stage for the activities of the Annual Meeting, September 14th to the 16th. We were privileged to be addressed by the former KMA President and new Chair of the AMA Board of Trustees, Dr. Ardis Hoven, with an update on the AMA's stance on H.R. 3200, The "America's Affordable Health Choices Act." My purpose here is to attempt to summarize the position of the AMA and of the KMA regarding this piece of legislation.

The AMA has formally supported this Bill in an attempt to maintain "a place at the table," even though it does not concur with all the Bill's provisions and implications. The final product of a House and Senate conference committee will probably be much different than the current measure and the AMA hopes to help mold that into a more "physician friendly" form.

The KMA for its part has not endorsed any specific piece of legislation, but has enumerated five principles which would provide changes to the healthcare system that it feels would benefit all Kentuckians. These are:

1. The repeal of the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula for Medicare reim-

bursement which would, if left unchanged, result in a twenty percent reduction in physician payments, and the creation of a new reimbursement system which would more accurately reflect the cost of operating a physician's office.

2. The development of meaningful medical liability reform to reduce the high cost of defensive medicine.

3. The termination of insurance companies' subsidies under the Medicare Advantage Program to save money to help allow the elimination of the SGR.

4. The initiation of insurance reform to reduce the administrative burden on patients and on physicians and to allow better access to insurance and to healthcare services for patients.

5. The development of anti-trust relief to allow physicians to negotiate on a level playing field to increase efficiencies in healthcare delivery.

The AMA, of course, does not support all the provisions of H.R. 3200. It does support in principle the following: expansion of coverage, insurance reform, guaranteed renewability, improved coverage, administrative simplification, elimination of the SGR formula, increased payment for Primary Care, but not at the expense of the Specialty Care (new money), quality review improvements, workforce investments for Primary Care, and some antitrust relief. The AMA specifically does not support the current structure

of the "public plan," the ban on physician-owned hospitals, and the limitations on liability reform. For more detail on these views, you may access the AMA website. The FAQ section in the Healthcare Reform Resources is particularly useful.

Other important issues not specifically addressed by Dr. Hoven include: the absence of a healthcare provider's "conscience clause" in the current legislation, the implication of the future requirements (after five years) for acceptable insurance plans, the fate of health care savings accounts, the nature of end-of-life counseling authorized by the Bill, the possible use of taxpayers' dollars for abortion coverage, and the deterioration of the Doctor-Patient relationship.

I would encourage all of you to contact your Senators and Representative to make your opinions regarding these issues known. Ultimately, the future of our profession, as well as the state of Healthcare in this country, are at stake. None of us is writing this legislation, but we can and we must try to influence those who are.

I would also encourage you to attend the upcoming health care forum scheduled for September 2, 2009. Finally, for a dissenting view on this Bill, you may go to Representative Geoff Davis' website for appropriate links.

Theodore H. Miller, M.D., Ph.D.,  
Eighth District Trustee, NKMS

Physician Participation

# President's Report

Over the past several issues of Society Rounds there has been a theme. That theme has been a call to physicians to become involved in organized medicine, political debate on medical issues and the community. We decided to bring out a supplemental issue at this time as there is now a real opportunity and need for our physicians to become involved. From the standpoint of organized medicine the Medical Society needs your participation to give us an effective voice at the

state level. We need physicians to serve as delegates to the KMA. Regarding the political debate, we currently have a loud public debate on healthcare reform. This debate needs physician input if it is to represent true healthcare reform and not simply political ideology. Physicians must be informed and speak out both to their representatives and patients. Finally, there is the issue of community involvement. With the expected H1N1 flu return this fall, there is a need for

physician participation with the Health Department in the Medical Reserve Corps. Please consider participating in one or several of these opportunities. Pick one that best suits your abilities. Physician leadership in the community is important for the future of our profession and this requires input from physicians and not just observations from the sidelines. We will get the future we our efforts warrant.

Stephen Hiltz, MD  
President, NKMS

Delegates to the Kentucky Medical Association

## Delegates to the KMA

The Northern Kentucky Society.

The Northern Kentucky Medical Society needs Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Kentucky Medical Association for 2009. The term of office for a Delegate is 3 years.

The duty of a Delegate is to attend the meetings of the House of Delegates and to faithfully represent the Northern Kentucky Medical

The KMA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14 to Wednesday, September 16, at the Hyatt Regency Louisville (320 West Jefferson Street, Louisville, KY).

The first House of Delegates meeting will be held on Monday, September 14 at 11:00 AM. The second and final

House of Delegates meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 15 at 7:00 PM. For more information visit the KMA website and click on Annual Meeting.

If you are interested in becoming a 2009 Delegate to the KMA, please contact the Northern Kentucky Medical Society, Karla Kennedy, at (859) 496-6567.

Upcoming Events

## Calendar of Events

- |                 |                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| September 14-16 | KMA Annual Meeting           |
| September 22    | NKMS Executive Board Meeting |
| October 1       | Meet Your Legislators Dinner |
| October 20      | NKMS Executive Board Meeting |
| November 17     | NKMS Executive Board Meeting |
| December 3      | Holiday Party                |

## Medical Reserve Corps

If a disaster or crisis threatens Northern Kentucky, volunteers may be needed to help take action if the event has overwhelmed traditional resources. The Northern Kentucky Medical Reserve Corps is actively seeking medical professionals and others who want to donate their time to prepare for and respond to any emergency event that may have an impact on public health and our daily lives.

The Northern Kentucky Medical Reserve Corps is organized to provide a volunteer pool for our region that can enhance and

support first responders, public health agencies and the health care infrastructure during a crisis. Northern Kentucky Medical Reserve Corps volunteers may be asked to support a public health emergency response in the receipt and distribution of emergency medical supplies; the setup and operation of community medication dispensing or vaccination sites; the setup and operation of triage, medical screening, or alternate care sites; or for emergency public information outreach activities.

“People with all backgrounds have a contribution that they

can make during an emergency,” said Steven R. Karkowsky, M.D., District Director of Health. “While there is a need for volunteers with medical backgrounds, such as nurses, pharmacists and physicians, people with non-medical backgrounds can assist with things such as clerical work, language interpretation and crowd control.”

Volunteers will be offered trainings and educational opportunities throughout the year. For more information about the Medical Reserve Corps or to register for an up-

coming training, please contact Jean Caudill at 859.363.2009 or visit

<http://www.nkyhealth.org/mrc>.

## Health Care Forum

On September 2, St. Elizabeth will host Congressmen Geoff Davis, R-KY and Dr. Tom Price, R-GA for a Health Care Forum and luncheon open to all physicians. In light of the current debate, it is essential that these influential representatives hear your concerns, questions and ideas. The forum will take place at St. Elizabeth in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor Conference Rooms from 12 pm until 2 pm.

Dr. Tom Price has represented Georgia in the US House of Representatives since 2005. He ran an orthopedic clinic in Atlanta for 20 years prior to returning to Emory as a professor of Orthopedic Surgery as well as directing the Grady Memorial Orthopedic Clinic. Dr. Price served in the Georgia State Senate from 1997-2005. He is an outspoken critic of the currently debated proposal HB 3200 and sponsor of HB 3400. The Kaiser Family Foundation has prepared a side-by-side comparison of the various health reform proposals: <http://www.kff.org/healthreform/sidebyside.cfm>.

Kimberly Moser  
Chair, KMAA Legislative Affairs

Health Care  
Forum  
Scheduled  
for September 2,  
from 12-2 PM at  
St. Elizabeth  
Healthcare —  
Edgewood  
Campus

## Meet Your Legislators Dinner

The Meet Your Legislators dinner, will be held at the Oriental Wok, (317 Buttermilk Pike, Lakeside Park, KY) on Thursday, October 1, 2009.

The evening will begin with a cash bar at 6:30 PM and dinner will be served at 7:00 PM. Invitations will be mailed in September.

The dinner menu will feature a choice of three entrées. Filet mignon, with onions and mushrooms topped with peppercorn sauce. Shrimp and tilapia stir-fry, served with authentic, in season, Chinese vegetables. Sesame chicken, with sweet sesame sauce, broccoli, peppers, and water chestnuts. All entrées will be served with a

salad, iced tea, coffee and hot tea. Cake will be served for dessert.

Make plans to attend this year’s Meet Your Legislators dinner. If you have any questions regarding the dinner, please call the Northern Kentucky Medical Society, Karla Kennedy, at (859) 496-6567.



Northern Kentucky  
Medical Society

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Contact Information  
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Northern Kentucky's  
Physician Network

Address Correction Requested

## Health Care Forum

Dr. Neal Moser and  
St. Elizabeth Health-  
care  
cordially invite you to  
participate in a  
Health Care Forum  
for Physicians  
with  
Congressman Geoff  
Davis  
and special guest  
Congressman Tom

Price, M.D.  
Chairman of the Re-  
publican Study Com-  
mittee  
Wednesday, Septem-  
ber 2, 2009  
12:00 pm to 2:00 pm  
St. Elizabeth Health-  
care - Edgewood  
Campus  
Conference Rooms L  
and M, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

Invitation is for Physi-  
cians Only and is Non-  
Transferable

Space is limited.  
Please RSVP to Linda  
Day at  
[lday@stelizabeth.com](mailto:lday@stelizabeth.com)

Hospital credentials  
must be displayed

A light lunch will be  
provided