



For Immediate Release

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FMA Disappointed in AMA's Support of HR 3962

The Florida Medical Association (FMA), which represents more than 19,000 physicians statewide, is disappointed with the American Medical Association's support for the passage of HR 3962, the U.S. House of Representatives' health care system reform bill.

The FMA has consistently opposed health care system reform proposals that intrude upon the patient-physician relationship, lack meaningful tort reform, fail to replace the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate formula, and set the stage for a single-payer system. HR 3962 does all of the above, and passage of this bill would burden medical practice with an alarming volume of new federal bureaucratic requirements. These actions, or lack thereof, go directly against the goal of increasing Americans' access to high-quality medical care, and they are financially unsustainable.

The FMA supports legislation that preserves the patient-physician relationship, the individual patient's right to choose his or her physician and insurance provider, and ensures quality determinations regarding medical care are made by physicians, not the federal government. It is in that spirit that we support the resolution, introduced to the AMA House of Delegates by former AMA President Daniel H. "Stormy" Johnson, MD, to rescind the AMA's support of HR 3962. FMA representatives will advocate these positions, along with our vision for meaningful health care reform, at the AMA's Interim Meeting on Nov. 7.

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About the Florida Medical Association

Founded in 1874, the Florida Medical Association's mission is to help physicians practice medicine. With over 19,000 members, the Florida Medical Association is the largest physician association in the state of Florida. For more information about the Florida Medical Association, visit www.fmaonline.org.

For more information about the FMA, visit www.fmaonline.org or contact Lynne Takacs, Director of Communications and Public Relations, at (800) 762-0233, (850) 445-3533 or ltakacs@medone.org.