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January 23, 2017

The Honorable Sam C. Mims, V
Chair, Public Health and Human Services Committee
Mississippi House of Representatives
Capitol Room 104-B
PO Box 1018
Jackson, MS 39215

Re: AMA opposition to Mississippi House Bills 86 and 542

Dear Chairman Mims:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, I write to express our opposition to House Bills 86 and 542 (H.B. 86/542). These bills would allow all advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) – nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives, nurse practitioners, and nurse specialists – to practice independent of physician supervision, collaboration, or oversight. As a result, H.B. 86/542 would give APRNs expanded authority to diagnose, treat, prescribe, and administer anesthesia to patients without restriction and without any physician involvement. Our reasons for opposition are outlined below.

Mississippi's patients need health care professionals to work together

Health care delivery system reforms hinge on a team-based approach to care. With seven or more years of postgraduate education and thousands of hours of clinical experience, physicians are uniquely qualified to lead the health care team. Physicians, physician assistants, nurses and other clinicians have long worked together to meet patient needs for a reason: the team approach to care works.

However, independent practice and team-based care take health care delivery in two very different directions. One approach would further compartmentalize and fragment health care delivery; the other would foster integration and coordination. Moreover, as data suggest, APRN independent practice does not lead to increased access to care or greater distribution of health care professionals.

Roles within the health care team should be based on education and training

The AMA believes that a physician is in the best position to serve as the leader of the health care team. Physicians' education, clinical training, and continuing medical education ensures that they are well equipped to diagnose and manage patient care. Physicians undertake more than 10,000 hours of clinical education and training during their four years of medical school and three-to-seven years of residency training. In comparison, APRNs have only between 500-720 hours of advance nursing education and training.

Further, recent legislative proposals have required APRNs to attain a certain number of hours or years of clinical practice before being allowed to practice without physician supervision, collaboration, or oversight, acknowledging that APRN education and training alone is insufficient for independent practice. H.B. 86/542 falls short of even these state proposals.

Patients want physicians to lead the health care team

Patients recognize that physicians are most qualified to lead the health care team. AMA surveys conducted in 2010 and 2012 found that patients overwhelmingly want a coordinated approach to health care, with a physician leading the team. Key findings from these surveys include:

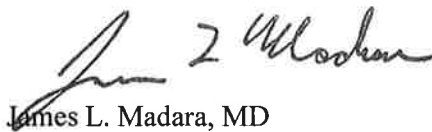
- Ninety-one percent of respondents said that a physician's years of education and training are vital to patient care, especially in the event of complication or medical emergency.
- Eighty-six percent of respondents said that patients with one or more chronic conditions benefit when a physician leads the health care team.
- Four out of five patients prefer a physician to have primary responsibility for leading and coordinating their health care.

AMA data also show that the vast majority of patients (79 percent) do not support APRN practice that is independent of physicians, without physician supervision, collaboration or oversight. Rather, nearly all patients think that physicians and APRNs should practice in a coordinated manner. In this time of increased collaboration and integration, H.B. 86/542 goes against what patients want.

As the provision of health care in this country becomes more complex, a fully coordinated, quality-focused and patient-centered health care team will be the optimal means by which Americans will receive their health care. In the physician-led team approach, each member of the team plays a critical role in delivering efficient, accurate, and cost-effective care to patients. The AMA is committed to helping all members of the health care team work together in a coordinated, efficient manner to achieve the triple aim in health care: ensure that Mississippi's patients receive the highest quality of health care, at the lowest cost, resulting in the most optimal clinical outcomes. H.B.86/542 is contrary to this goal.

The AMA thanks you for the opportunity to submit these comments. Based on all of the above, we strongly urge you to oppose H.B. 86/542. If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Schleiter, JD, LLM, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center, at kristin.schleiter@ama-assn.org or (312) 464-4783.

Sincerely,



James L. Madara, MD

cc: Lee Voulters, MD



DATE: 1-17-17

**EXECUTIVE OFFICES
Transmittal Note**

TYPE OF CORRESPONDENCE:

- Letter
- Mass Mailing
- Memo
- Other

ADDRESSED TO:

Sam C. Mims, V
Chair PTHSC
MS House of Rep

SUBJECT: (Title and short description of document purpose.)

AMA opposition to MS House Bills 86 and 572

INSTRUCTIONS - STAFF INITIATED DOCUMENTS FOR BOT SIGNATURE:

- 1) Do not date document.
- 2) Include in folder, original and 2 copies.
- 3) **All appropriate approvals must be obtained prior to submitting to Jon Burkhardt, COS, VP, Executive Offices.**
- 4) Your department will be contacted when item has been signed.

INSTRUCTIONS - DOCUMENTS FOR EVP/CEO SIGNATURE:

- 1) Item must be dated.
- 2) Include in folder, original response, 2 copies and 1 copy of the original correspondence if applicable.
- 3) **Appropriate approvals must be obtained before submitting to EVP Office.**
- 4) The department preparing item is responsible for coordinating, if necessary, all additional approvals and comments before submission to EVP Office.
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APPROVALS:

- 1) Author Kristin Schletter
- 2) Immediate Supervisor [Signature]
- 3) SVP or Designate Richard Deen #12

Extension 4788

DOES THE ATTACHED ITEM REQUIRE ADDITIONAL APPROVAL OR REVIEW BY OTHERS?

ADDITIONAL APPROVALS:

COMMENTS: (Attach additional information if needed.)

- Advocacy _____
- Finance _____
- OGC T. Hendy 1/19/17
- Other SMG _____
- Other SMG _____
- Other SMG _____

When approved, please call Wendy Holmes

Extension 4739

FOR EXECUTIVE OFFICES USE ONLY

- COO _____
- CSO _____

- COS Jan 1/20/2017
- Executive Offices [Signature] 1/23/2017
- EVP/CEO [Signature] 1/20/2017

If you have any questions, please contact the Executive Offices at extensions 5049 or 4307.