



**JAMES L. MADARA, MD**  
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January 23, 2015

The Honorable Dean Kirby  
Chairman  
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
Mississippi State Capitol, Room 212 D  
P. O. Box 1018  
Jackson, MS 39215

**Re: AMA Support for House Bill (H.B.) 204**

Dear Chairman Kirby:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and student members, I am writing in support of House Bill (H.B.) 204. This legislation would prohibit the conditioning of physicians' and other health providers' licensure on participation in health care programs or plans or on compliance with the "meaningful use" of electronic health records.

This is an important piece of proactive legislation addressing the inappropriate interference of regulation on physicians' autonomy. This bill will protect fair business practices by allowing physicians to negotiate with the health plans of their choosing. It will allow physicians to determine the caseload that is right for their practice. And this legislation will protect access to physicians in Mississippi by ensuring that doctors in your state are able to adopt the innovative health information technology that allows them to focus on caring for their patients, rather than meeting the rigid requirements that are part of the federal Meaningful Use program.

We look forward to working with you and the Mississippi State Medical Association toward enactment of H.B. 204. If you have questions or would like to discuss further, please contact Emily Carroll, Senior Legislative Attorney at [emily.carroll@ama-assn.org](mailto:emily.carroll@ama-assn.org) or (312) 464-4967 and Annalia Michelman, Senior Legislative Attorney, Advocacy Resource Center at [annalia.michelman@ama-assn.org](mailto:annalia.michelman@ama-assn.org) or (312) 464-4788.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Madara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Mississippi State Medical Association