



Idaho Medical Association

NEWS RELEASE

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Idaho Medical Association Adopts Health Care Reform Policy

Physicians of the Idaho Medical Association adopted resolutions and policies on a range of important health topics at the IMA's Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates held July 24-26 in Sun Valley.

The IMA's Annual Meeting brings together Idaho physicians from across the state to examine and consider specific resolutions brought forth by members to the Association's House of Delegates, its policy-making body.

Delegates approved health care reform policy with the priorities of improving healthcare access, quality, equity, and cost-effectiveness. Among the specifics of the policy are providing affordable, essential health care for all, increased focus on wellness/prevention, and reduction of physician workforce shortages.

The newly adopted policy states:

The Idaho Medical Association supports health care reform that:

- 1. Improves the health care system through the expansion of health care access that:*
 - *Provides affordable, essential health care for all*
 - *Promotes an accountable private insurance market, which*
 - 1. will not exclude potential insureds based on pre-existing conditions*
 - 2. will provide portable insurance products*
 - 3. will refrain from engaging in the practice of medicine*
 - *Ensures sustainable public programs for vulnerable populations*

2. *Improves quality of care through:*

- *Providing real time data at point of care*
- *Providing incentives rather than penalties to providers for implementation of health information technology (HIT)*
- *Use of measurement as a tool, not an end point*
- *Correction of problems with, and simplification of, the Physicians Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI)*
- *Encouraging the use of evidence-based guidelines*

3. *Reforms government programs by:*

- *Ensuring adequate payments*
- *Allowing balance billing and private contracting*
- *Eliminating the Medicare sustainable growth rate (SGR)*

4. *Reduces cost by:*

- *Rewarding physicians for cost reduction*
- *Enacting medical liability reforms*
- *Simplification of administrative burdens, including claim approval and payment requirements*
- *Encouraging reasonable and sustainable pharmaceutical pricing with industry accountability*

5. *Increases focus on wellness/prevention through:*

- *Aligning insurance benefit design with prevention evidence*
- *Making public investments in education, community projects, and nutrition*
- *Eliminating racial, ethnic, and gender disparities*
- *Adopting policy to improve health and preventive care efforts by advocating for, and incentivizing, increased physical activity, proper diet, tobacco cessation, and personal responsibility*

6. *Reforms payment and delivery systems by:*

- *Promoting the medical home and other steps to reward care coordination of chronic disease*
- *Providing antitrust relief to improve quality and care coordination*
- *Conducting adequate testing of new payment models consistent with freedom of choice, freedom of practice, and universal access for patients*
- *Reducing health care access disparities for the rural population*

7. *Increases patient access by reducing physician workforce shortages through:*

- *Increasing medical education and training*
- *Reducing physician medical education debt burden*

The Idaho Medical Association is a professional organization representing more than 1,900 practicing physicians throughout Idaho.