

Mississippi State Medical Association
158th Annual Session
House of Delegates
The Refuge Hotel & Conference Center
August 7-8, 2026

ACTIONS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES 2026

This abridged summary reports only the final actions passed by the House of Delegates at the MSMA Annual Session August 7-8, 2026 in Flowood, Mississippi. No recommendations or motions which failed to pass are listed in this report. If a recommendation was amended or substituted on the floor, this summary states the language adopted as amended or in lieu thereof. Attached hereto are copies of the original filed reports, resolutions and reference committee reports to complete the record.

REPORT A OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RECOMMENDATION: That the House of Delegates file Report A of the Board of Trustees summarizing MSMA's operations during 2025-2026 and disposition of all actions taken at the 157th Annual Session.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Report A of the Board of Trustees was filed with commendation and appreciation to our Board of Trustees.

REPORT B OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RECOMMENDATION: That the House of Delegates file Report B which summarizes MSMA's efforts in conjunction with the 2026 Regular Session of the Mississippi State Legislature and the activities of the Association's Council on Legislation.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Report B of the Board of Trustees was filed.

REPORT C OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RECOMMENDATION: That the House of Delegates file Report C which summarizes the annual independent audit of MSMA.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Report C of the Board of Trustees was filed with commendation.

REPORT D OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RECOMMENDATION: That the House of Delegates file Report D which states that the 2025 business meeting of the House of Delegates again be held in Jackson at a suitable facility in the metro area.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Report D of the Board of Trustees was filed.

REPORT E OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RECOMMENDATION: Report E summarizes the Board and Ad Hoc Committee's review of Resolutions 10 from the 2025 Annual Session, which addressed delegation sizes and student/resident representation.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Report E of the Board of Trustees was filed.

REPORT F OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RECOMMENDATION: Report F summarizes the Board's actions concerning Resolution 4 from the 2025 Annual Session regarding the use of nitrous oxide for anxiolysis during office-based procedures.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Report F of the Board of Trustees was filed.

REPORT G OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RECOMMENDATION: Report G summarizes the Board's recommendation that the House of Delegates approve the consolidation of the Coast Counties Medical Society and the Singing River Medical Society into a single component medical society effective January 1, 2027, and authorize any necessary charter modifications and organizational realignment required to implement the consolidation.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Report G of the Board of Trustees was filed and the consolidation of the Coast Counties Medical Society and the Singing River Medical Society into a single component medical society effective January 1, 2027, was approved.

REPORT OF THE AMA DELEGATION

RECOMMENDATION: That the House of Delegates file the Annual Report of Delegates to the AMA and commend the Mississippi Delegation for their dedication and work during 2025-2026.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: The Report of the AMA Delegation was filed with commendation.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON MEDICAL SERVICE

RECOMMENDATION: That the House of Delegates file the Annual Report of the Council on Medical Service which summarizes the Council's work during the 2025-2026 year

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: The Report of the Council on Medical Service was filed.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

RECOMMENDATION: That the House of Delegates file the Annual Report of the Council on Public Information which summarizes the Council's activities for the 2025-2026 year. The Council promotes the annual Excellence in Medicine Leadership Awards which highlights the awards and deserving recipients.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: The Report of the Council on Public Information was filed.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON MEDICAL EDUCATION

RECOMMENDATION: That the House of Delegates file the Annual Report of the Council on Medical Education which summarizes its activities for the 2025-2026 year.

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HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: The Annual Report of the Council on Medical Education was filed.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION

RECOMMENDATION: That the House of Delegates file the Annual Report of the Council on Accreditation which outlines the Council's activities during 2025-2026 and its continued participation in the Southern States CME Collaborative (SSCC).

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: The Annual Report of the Council on Accreditation was filed.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

RECOMMENDATION: That the House of Delegates file the Annual Report of the Council on Constitution and Bylaws which summarizes matters considered and actions taken by the Council during its annual meetings. The Council reported on its ongoing review of MSMA governance documents, noting its unanimous support of recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee on Resolution 10 regarding bylaw changes for the Medical Student Section and Resident and Fellow Section, and its issuance of an explanatory statement to the Board of Trustees and membership. The Council also reviewed and approved a proposed bylaw amendment to allow proxy voting at the House of Delegates after further collaboration and revision with the resolution sponsor and discussed nominations and member responsibilities related to upcoming Council vacancies.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: The Report of the Council on Constitution and Bylaws was filed with commendation to the staff and Council.

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: The Presidential Address was filed commending Dr. Pannel for her leadership during the year.

REMARKS OF THE SPEAKER

RECOMMENDATION: That the Remarks of the Speaker be filed.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: The Speaker's Remarks were filed, and Dr. Carlos Latorre was commended for his leadership during the 2025-2026 year.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

That the House of Delegates file the Annual Report of the Secretary-Treasurer which summarizes the MSMA 2025 membership and compares it to previous years.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: The Report of the Secretary-Treasurer was filed.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

That the House of Delegates file the Annual Report of the Executive Director which summarizes the work of MSMA over this past year detailing the Association's activities and accomplishments during 2025-2026. The report highlights MSMA's advocacy efforts, educational programs, partnerships, member services, and continued engagement with the American Medical Association and other stakeholders. The report further

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documents significant accomplishments in legislative advocacy, physician education, and organizational development.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: The Report of the Executive Director was filed with commendation and appreciation to all staff.

RESOLUTION 1

IN MEMORIAM

Introduced by: Chip Holbrook, MD, Secretary-Treasurer

Without referral

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: The House of Delegates adopted Resolution 1 by acclamation.

RESOLUTION 2

ADVOCATING FOR EQUITABLE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION (GME) COMPENSATION TO IMPROVE PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT AND MSMA RETENTION

Introduced by: W. Kyle Copenhaver, DO

Reference Committee A-1

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Resolution 2 was adopted as amended to read as follows:

RESOLVED, That the MSMA formally adopt a policy supporting competitive, market-rate compensation for all resident physicians and fellows within the state of Mississippi; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the MSMA actively collaborate with the Designated Institutional Officials (DIOs) and leadership teams at all Mississippi GME sponsoring institutions to advocate that baseline resident stipends be raised to meet, at a minimum, the national AAMC 25th percentile, with an ultimate target of matching the national AAMC median baseline; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the MSMA House of Delegates direct its Board of Trustees and executive leadership to leverage this compensation advocacy initiative as a cornerstone marketing strategy for resident recruitment campaigns, explicitly highlighting MSMA's structural commitment to trainee welfare to drive increased resident and fellow membership enrollment within the Association.

RESOLUTION 3

ENCOURAGE REPATRIATION OF ACUTE HOSPITAL PATIENTS TO RURAL AND LOWER ACUITY HOSPITALS

Introduced by: Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians

Reference Committee A-1

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Resolution 3 was adopted as amended to read as follows:

RESOLVED, that our MSMA and AMA explore the increased use and encouragement of allowing acute medical transfers in appropriate situations to lower acuity facilities or rural medical facilities in order to ease overcrowding and diversion status in larger hospitals and utilize ambulance transport from ERs or Acute

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Inpatient Hospitals to another acute hospital facility; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MSMA advocate for Medicare, Medicaid, and all health insurance providers allow and encourage pathways to repatriate patients to lower acute inpatient status in their own community hospitals via ambulance transfers and extended acute inpatient care once the patient no longer requires the higher level of acuity of the higher-level facility.

RESOLUTION 4

LEGISLATION FOR OBESITY TREATMENT COVERAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

Introduced by: Emily Landrum, MD and Luke Lampton, MD

Reference Committee A-2

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Resolution 4 was adopted as amended.

RESOLVED, that the MSMA work with the appropriate Mississippi stakeholders who may introduce legislation that will encourage insurance coverage of anti-obesity treatment and education in the form of physician, physician extenders and dietician/nutritionist visits via Telehealth and in person; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that the MSMA work with the appropriate Mississippi stakeholders who may introduce legislation that will encourage insurance coverage of FDA approved anti-obesity medications for all patients with a BMI greater than 30 regardless of comorbid conditions.

RESOLUTION 5

DECOUPLING INITIAL BOARD CERTIFICATION FROM MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

Introduced by: Lucius Lampton, MD, and Brett Lampton, MD

Reference Committee A-1

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Policy 031.04 and 031.06 be reaffirmed in lieu of Resolution 5.

RESOLUTION 6

EXPANDING MATERNAL TOBACCO CESSATION AND SMOKE-FREE HOUSEHOLD INITIATIVES IN MISSISSIPPI

Introduced by: Darius Myles Hardie, OMS II ; Ramsha Saad, OMS III; and Hima Praveen, OMS II, William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine, AMA & MSMA Student Members

Reference Committee A-1

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Resolution 6 was adopted to read as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi State Medical Association (MSMA) support expansion and modernization of maternal tobacco and nicotine cessation initiatives throughout Mississippi; and be it further

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RESOLVED, that the MSMA advocate for strengthening physician-referral pathways connecting pregnant and postpartum patients to the Mississippi Tobacco Quitline, Baby & Me Tobacco Free, and other maternal cessation resources throughout the state; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MSMA collaborates with MSDH, Office of Tobacco Control, academic medical centers in development and dissemination of a Maternal Tobacco and Nicotine Cessation Physician Toolkit containing evidence-based counseling resources, referral pathways, patient education materials, telehealth resources, and information regarding available state and community cessation programs for pregnant and postpartum patients; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MSMA encourage continued evaluation of maternal tobacco cessation outcomes, postpartum relapse prevention strategies, smoke-free household interventions, and telehealth-based cessation services to improve maternal and neonatal health outcomes throughout Mississippi; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi State Medical Association (MSMA) work with the Mississippi State Department of Health, the Office of Tobacco Control, healthcare systems, and relevant C3 and C4 organizations to identify and pursue grant funding opportunities and pilot programs supporting evidence-based maternal tobacco cessation initiatives throughout Mississippi

RESOLUTION 7**EXPANDING POSTPARTUM MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING AND REFERRAL ACCESS IN MISSISSIPPI**

Introduced by: Ramsha Saad, OMS III; Darius Myle Hardie, OMS II; and Hima Praveen, OMS II, William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine, AMA & MSMA Student Members
Reference Committee A-1

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: MSMA policies 020.04, 020.06, 039.03, 036.02-036.07, and 01.02-01.04 be reaffirmed in lieu of Resolution 7

RESOLUTION 8**ETHICAL OVERSIGHT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN PRIOR AUTHORIZATION**

Introduced by: Ramsha Saad, OMS III; Darius Myle Hardie, OMS II; and Hima Praveen, OMS II, William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine, AMA & MSMA Student Members
Reference Committee A-1

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: MSMA policies 010.06, 010.07, 010.12, 010.18, and 021.05 be reaffirmed in lieu of Resolution 8.

RESOLUTION 9**SUPPORT THE USE OF 50% NITROUS OXIDE/50% OXYGEN GAS PREMIX FOR ANXIOLYSIS IN LEVEL 1 OFFICE-BASED PROCEDURES IN WOMEN'S HEALTH**

Introduced by: Lindsey Turner, MD
Reference Committee A-1

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HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Resolution 9 was referred to the Board for study:

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi State Medical Association supports the self-administered use of 50% Nitrous Oxide/50% Oxygen gas premix for anxiolysis during Level 1 office-based medical procedures involving women's health as described above; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi State Medical Association requests that the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure reconsider and revise its 2018 interpretation regarding self-administered 50% Nitrous Oxide/50% Oxygen gas premix and permit its use for anxiolysis during Level 1 office-based procedures in women's health [JPP2.1] when appropriate patient selection, physician supervision, monitoring, scavenging systems, emergency equipment, and other applicable safety standards are maintained.

RESOLUTION 10

SICKLE CELL SANCTUARY

Introduced by: Sharon Pennington, MD

Reference Committee A-2

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Resolution 10 be adopted as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi State Medical Association will work with leadership and state agencies to support the establishment of a Sickle Cell Sanctuary in Mississippi, including identifying appropriate funding sources and resources for future success in assisting Mississippi patients and to decrease the high utilization and cost burden associated with SCD.

RESOLUTION 11

BYLAW CHANGES TO MEDICAL STUDENT SECTION AND RESIDENT AND FELLOW SECTION

Introduced by: MSMA Board of Trustees

Without referral

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Resolution 11 was adopted as follows:

RESOLVED, that the following Bylaws be amended to read as follows:

Section 4. Medical Student Section: There shall be a section for medical students which shall be composed of medical students who are members of the Association. Chapters of the section may be established at each of the medical school locations in the state. The President, President-elect, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates, and the Student Trustee shall be ex-officio members of the governing council and of all committees of the section. Each Medical Student Section chapter shall elect Medical Student Section officers and Delegates to serve in the House of Delegates. Each Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) or Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) accredited Mississippi Medical School shall have the authority to elect eight (8) voting delegates and eight (8) alternate delegates to serve in the House of Delegates.

Section 5. Resident and Fellow Section: There shall be a section for interns, residents and fellows who are

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members of the Association. The President, President-elect, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates, and the Resident/Fellow Trustee shall be ex-officio members of the governing council and of all committees of the section. Chapters of the section may be established at each of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or American Osteopathic Association (AOA) accredited Resident and Fellow programs in Mississippi. The Resident and Fellow Section shall have the authority to elect twenty-four (24) voting delegates and twenty-four (24) alternate delegates to serve in the House of Delegates.

RESOLUTION 12**RESTORING THE PUBLIC'S TRUST IN ORGANIZED MEDICINE AND THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE**

Introduced by: Dustin Gentry, MD, James Ervin, MD, Luke Lampton, MD

Reference Committee A-1

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Resolution 12 was adopted to read as follows:

RESOLVED, that the MSMA support the development of AMA policy requiring that all policies guiding physicians or the Association in the clinical practice of medicine be supported by consistent, high-quality, patient-oriented evidence and documented through the use of a recognized evidence-grading methodology (i.e., GRADE, SOR); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MSMA support and advocate for AMA policy providing that, where there is a weak or substandard body of evidence, the AMA refrain from adopting policies guiding physicians or the Association in the clinical practice of medicine, and that such decisions be accompanied by an explanation citing the lack of high-quality evidence.

RESOLUTION 13**SAFE AND ETHICAL USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE**

Introduced by: Katherine Pannel, DO; and substituted by Jennifer Gholson, MD

Reference Committee A-2

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Resolution 13 be substituted and that the substituted resolution be adopted as an expansion of existing policy to read as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi State Medical Association support policies affirming that artificial intelligence shall not independently diagnose, treat, provide psychotherapy, or simulate a therapeutic counseling relationship without meaningful oversight and accountability by appropriately licensed health care professionals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi State Medical Association advocate for transparency requirements ensuring that patients are informed whenever artificial intelligence technologies are used in connection with their mental or behavioral health care, including clear disclosure that they are not interacting with a licensed

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professional; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi State Medical Association advocate that artificial intelligence systems used in mental and behavioral health settings be required to detect expressions of suicidal ideation or self-harm and immediately refer users to crisis resources and licensed professional care, without independently assessing or determining the clinical significance of such risk; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi State Medical Association support the development of evidence-based standards and regulatory safeguards governing the use of artificial intelligence in mental and behavioral health settings, including enhanced protections for minors and other vulnerable populations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi State Medical Association advocate that any use of artificial intelligence in mental and behavioral health care prioritize patient safety, privacy, confidentiality, equitable access and performance across patient populations, and professional accountability.

RESOLUTION 14**EDUCATING MEDICAL TRAINEES ON APPROPRIATE INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSE TO IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ENCOUNTERS IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS**

Introduced by: Ramsha Saad, OMS III; Darius Myles Hardie, OMS II; and Hima Praveen, OMS II, William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine, AMA & MSMA Student Members

Reference Committee A-2

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Resolution 14 was referred to the Board of Trustees for further study:

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi State Medical Association (MSMA) encourage Mississippi medical schools and affiliated teaching hospitals to provide educational training to medical trainees regarding institutional protocols and legal considerations involving immigration enforcement encounters in healthcare settings; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such educational initiatives include general instruction regarding the legal significance of judicial warrants, administrative warrants, subpoenas, and removal orders, and when such matters should be referred to hospital administration or legal counsel; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MSMA encourages healthcare institutions to establish clear escalation protocols directing medical trainees to notify supervising physicians, hospital administration, security personnel, or legal counsel when immigration enforcement personnel are present within clinical settings.

RESOLUTION 15**STOP THE BLEED® TRAINING & BLEEDING CONTROL PREPAREDNESS IN MISSISSIPPI SCHOOLS**

Introduced by: Central Medical Society

Reference Committee A-2

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HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Resolution 15 was Referred to the board of trustees for further study with action on or before December 31, 2026:

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi State Medical Association (MSMA) advocate and work with Mississippi legislators and state officials to support policies that encourage or require implementation of STOP THE BLEED® education and bleeding control preparedness programs in public school districts, charter schools, private schools, community colleges, and institutions of higher learning within the State of Mississippi; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such legislation and policy include age-appropriate bleeding control instruction for students in grades nine through twelve and annual training for school personnel; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such legislation and policy encourage placement of bleeding control kits in appropriate school facilities, including near AEDs, and in other high-occupancy locations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that such legislation and policy encourage the Mississippi Department of Education, in collaboration with the Mississippi State Department of Health, trauma centers, EMS agencies, and healthcare organizations, to develop standardized educational materials and training resources for statewide implementation.

RESOLUTION 16

RESOLUTION TO ALLOW PROXY VOTING IN THE MISSISSIPPI STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Introduced by: Council on Constitution and Bylaws

Reference Committee on Constitution and Bylaws

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Resolution 16 was referred to the Board of Trustees for study and report back to the 2027 House of Delegates.

RESOLVED, that Chapter V, Section 3 of the MSMA Bylaws, be amended by adding the following subsection:

In accordance with Miss Code Ann 79-11-221 (1), the Speaker of the House may authorize the use of a vote by proxy at any MSMA House of Delegates' meeting.

Upon said authorization, proper notification of the proxy authorization to a registered delegate must be made at least thirty (30) days prior to the designated House of Delegates' session, or at such time as set by the Speaker and/or Board of Trustees. The proxy may be assigned to a registered delegate in the member's component society for voting purposes at the designated session only and is non-transferable. No registered delegate may hold more than one proxy vote at any MSMA House of Delegates' session.

Members represented by proxy shall not be counted for purposes of determining the presence of a quorum, though proxies may be used for voting on matters once a quorum has otherwise been established. If proxy voting negatively affects the House of Delegates' Annual Session, the Speaker and/or the Board of Trustees

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may modify the process, and/or revoke proxy voting, upon the recommendation of the MSMA Executive Director.

RESOLUTION 17

REDUCE CHILD ACCESS TO FIREARMS

Introduced by: Mississippi Chapter – American Academy of Pediatrics

Reference Committee A-2

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Resolution 17 was adopted as amended to read as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi State Medical Association support and advocate for legislation strengthening Mississippi's Child Access Prevention (CAP) law to include establishment of negligence-storage standards and other measures, including stronger penalties, to reduce children's unauthorized access to firearms.

RESOLUTION 18

RESTRICT DOMESTIC ABUSER ACCESS TO FIREARMS

Introduced by: Mississippi Chapter – American Academy of Pediatrics

Reference Committee B

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Resolution 18 was adopted as amended to read as follows:

RESOLVED, that our MSMA support and advocate for legislation substantially similar to Senate Bill 2339 (2026), or subsequent legislation, that provides for the removal or restriction of firearm access for individuals subject to qualifying domestic violence protective orders or domestic violence convictions.

RESOLUTION 19

NEW POLICY BY MAJOR PAYORS TO AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADE HIGH COMPLEXITY EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT (E/M) CODES WITH LITTLE EXPLANATION ON HOW DETERMINATIONS ARE MADE

Introduced by: Coast Counties Medical Society

Reference Committee A-2

HOUSE OF DELEGATES ACTION: Resolution 19 was adopted as an expansion of existing policy to read as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Mississippi State Medical Association advocate and support actions by the Mississippi legislature and Insurance Commissioner to develop and implement solutions that provide appropriate oversight without adding administrative burdens, while ensuring proper payment to physicians for the care they provide to patients.

RESULTS OF MSMA ELECTIONS

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