

How can your idea become legislation?

By Dr. Jayesh Shah, 2016 BCMS President



Did you know that every BCMS member has the opportunity to write a resolution and get involved in producing legislation at the grassroots level?

If you sometimes wonder how you can contribute when you identify a problem with the practice of medicine, this is what you should do. Take the problem that you found and use it as an opportunity to find and suggest a solution in the form of a resolution. As a member of the county medical society, you can write a resolution which can be submitted to BCMS.

The BCMS Delegate Committee reviews all resolutions that are submitted by BCMS members. If the committee agrees, the delegates present the recommendation as a resolution from the county society at the next meeting of the TMA House of Delegates. If your resolution is not adopted by the county society, you can still submit it directly to the TMA House of Delegates without the county society's endorsement for consideration by the TMA House. TMA sections also may submit resolutions. Boards, councils, and committees (and sections) also develop ideas and recommend actions through reports (not resolutions) to the house.

Resolutions are structured to express the background of the problem in "whereas" clauses and to specify a specific position or course of action in one or more "resolved" statement(s). If your idea or resolution is already a policy, you can find that out by searching the AMA or TMA website. It is always a good idea to search relevant policies while writing a resolution. Once

you submit a resolution to TMA, the staff will add a fiscal note to your resolution so that if approved, it can be included in TMA's next year's budget. Please note that only the resolved statements of resolutions are acted upon by the House and become association policy statements or directives. If your resolution has directive to go from the AMA House of Delegates then it is reviewed by the AMA delegation from TMA.

If you need help, BCMS has a lot of resources including staff person, Mary Nava, Director of Governmental Affairs, who will help and guide you to write your resolution. I would like to encourage everyone to get involved, write a resolution, and be a part of the BCMS delegation to TMA. You can also serve on the Reference Committee or get involved in other county society committees.

Get involved. Individual members have the power to change things and there is a mechanism in place so your voice can be heard. I am attaching a resolution this year that was brought by a BCMS member which was approved by the BCMS delegation. The TMA House of Delegates will discuss this resolution at the TEX MED annual meeting on April 29-30 in Dallas.

See you all at the TMA meeting. One of our past presidents, Dr. David Henkes, is running for president-elect and we need you all to be there to support his candidacy.

*See you there.
Dr. Jayesh Shah*