



OSMA Health System Reform Policy – Updated 5/10/11

OSMA Health System Reform Policy, the Vision for Creating a Healthier Ohio, calls for:

- *Universal Coverage for Basic Services*
 - Require all Ohioans to have health insurance, and make changes to the system so individuals can select and truly own their health insurance. Create a mechanism through which individuals who are not currently covered can purchase private insurance through a public or private agency.
 - Reform the insurance market and require entities (i.e. employers, unions, government, etc.) that offer coverage to offer a variety of plan options from different insurers. Competition will reduce prices, improve quality and force insurers to offer plans that better meet individual needs.
 - Subsidize coverage for low-income Ohioans.
- *Create a system that focuses on wellness and prevention instead of treatment for illness*
 - Incentivize patients, healthcare providers and insurers to focus on improved health outcomes, healthy lifestyles and education.
 - Support a strong foundation of healthy living education in school curriculums.
 - Invest in and design coverage that supports disease prevention and health promotion (obesity prevention, smoking cessation).
- *Improve quality with evidence-based medicine and increased transparency*
 - Assist consumers in making informed choices through transparent quality, cost and payment data.
 - Pilot electronic medical records in a specified geographic area to assess cost and implementation issues.
 - Pilot quality reporting of healthcare providers based upon evidence-based medicine and patient satisfaction – not insurance claims data.
 - Require insurers to report covered services and out-of-pocket costs as well as reimbursement to providers and administrative cost information.
- *Create a healthcare financing system that is self-sustaining and emphasizes personal responsibility*
 - Carefully examine and redirect existing resources to support newly designed system.
 - Create a dedicated healthcare funding source.
 - If additional resources are required, consider broad tax on lifestyle choices that are detrimental to good health.
 - Eliminate tax penalties on private spending on healthcare.



Actions of the 2011 OSMA House of Delegates on Health System Reform:

- **Reaffirmed support of universal coverage, though not necessarily in the same form as the current individual mandate in the ACA**
 - Resolution 05-11 language as adopted:
 - **RESOLVED**, That the Ohio State Medical Association reaffirm support for universal health insurance access for all Americans through market based initiatives to create incentives for the purchase of coverage; and, **be it further**
 - **RESOLVED**, That our Ohio State Medical Association and American Medical Association will pursue legislative and regulatory reform to achieve universal health insurance access through free market solutions.

- **OSMA will look to incorporate the Montgomery County Medical Society's "The Physician Common Ground Message" in advocacy messaging.**
 - Resolution 07-11 language as adopted:
 - **RESOLVED**, That Ohio State Medical Association review and consider the use of any applicable aspects of the Montgomery County Medical Society's "The Physician Common Ground Message" in their advocacy efforts on behalf of all Ohio physicians.
 - More information at www.mcmsoh.org.

Updates on efforts to the reform Medicare:

- **OSMA supports the Medicare Patient Empowerment Act (HR 1700) introduced by Rep. Tom Price, MD (R-GA) on May 3, 2011. The bill:**
 - This bill, based on policy adopted by the AMA House of Delegates, would allow Medicare patients and their physicians to enter into private contracts without penalty to either party.
 - It would enable beneficiaries to use their Medicare benefits to see physicians who do not accept Medicare, as opposed to paying for the entire cost of their care out-of-pocket as required under current law.

- **OSMA and the AMA support permanently fixing the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula.**
 - The OSMA supports the AMA's call for "replacing the SGR with a five-year period of stable Medicare physician payments that keep pace with the growth of medical practices. Eventually, Medicare should transition to 'an array of new payment models to enhance care coordination, quality, appropriateness, and costs.'"

On previous efforts to repeal the federal health system reform law, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) -

- In early 2011, the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) supported efforts to repeal the federal health care law enacted by Congress last year. This stance is consistent with the OSMA's previous opposition to HR 3950, legislation that created the "Affordable Care Act" (ACA). Our support of these efforts is so that Congress has an opportunity to revisit some of the deficiencies in the ACA.



On previous efforts to repeal the federal health system reform law, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) – CONT-

- While the repeal effort is not a realistic option at this time, the OSMA believes that Congress must revisit some of the deficiencies in the ACA. These deficiencies include, but are not limited to:
 - A failure to permanently fix the flawed Medicare payment program for physicians
 - An overly aggressive expansion of government-run health care (Medicaid)
 - A lack of a commitment to meaningful medical liability reform
 - A failure to incorporate adequate measures to improve consumer responsibility in controlling one's own health care costs
- While the OSMA opposed the ACA, we support several of the goals of the legislation. These deficiencies include, but are not limited to:
 - Efforts to provide all Americans with access to affordable health insurance coverage, regardless of employment or health status
 - The establishment of health insurance exchanges
 - Elimination of health insurers' ability to deny coverage for pre-existing conditions,
 - Investments in prevention and wellness services, patient centered medical homes and health information technology and electronic medical records, as well as increased funding for physician services
- Just because the OSMA opposed the federal health care law, does not mean that we are opposed to health system reform. As physicians we understand better than many others that the status quo of the current health care delivery system is unsustainable.
- The OSMA is supportive of reform efforts to guarantee patients' access to high-quality, cost effective medical care while establishing a more efficient and complete health care delivery system in the United States. The ACA fails to effectively achieve these goals. Thus, the OSMA supports efforts to revisit the deficiencies in the laws through any process available, including legislative repeal efforts.

On Ohio's decision to join the in the multi-state lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the "Affordable Care Act" (ACA) –

- While the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) opposed the enactment last year of the federal health care reform law, the "Affordability Care Act" (ACA), we are **not taking a position** on Attorney General Mike DeWine's efforts to file a constitutional challenge to the law.
- At issue is whether the new law mandating all individuals to have health insurance is permitted under the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution. The OSMA opposed the federal health care overhaul for a number of reasons, but the individual mandate provision was not one of them.
- The OSMA supports the concept of universal health coverage, and one way to achieve this goal is to require individuals to have health insurance. Another option would be to provide financial or tax incentives to purchase health insurance.