



Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA, Executive Vice President, CEO

March 14, 2011

The Honorable Tom Price, MD
U.S. House of Representatives
403 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Dr. Price:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am pleased to inform you of our support for H.R. 969, the "Medical Practice Freedom Act of 2011." This important legislation would ensure that physicians are not required to participate in any health plan as a condition of licensure in any state.

Physicians invest tremendous time, effort, and resources to obtain and maintain their medical licenses. Licensure laws should only relate to requirements for admission to the practice of medicine and to assuring the continuing competence of physicians, not to achieving socioeconomic objectives. If physicians lose their license as a result of choosing not to participate in certain public or private insurance plans, they will be forced to stop practicing or leave the state as a result of their decision, having a detrimental impact on access to care in the state.

Conditioning physician licensure on participation in any public or private insurance plans unduly restricts a physician's freedom to practice. Forcing physicians to participate in certain plans eliminates physicians' ability to control their workload to ensure that they are able to provide their patients with the care they need; eliminates their ability to negotiate contracts fairly with plans; and eliminates their ability to refuse to work for a plan that engages in abusive business practices or improperly interferes in the physician-patient relationship.

We applaud your leadership on this issue, and look forward to working with you to ensure the passage of this important legislation. Please do not hesitate to call upon the AMA for assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Maves". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael D. Maves, MD, MBA