



Leadership Development  
Physicians Caring for Texans

# **POLICY MAKING 101:** **LEARN HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

*Earn 1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*

# Welcome!



## Physician Leaders

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Speaker  
TMA House of Delegates



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# CME Information

## Program Objectives

Explain policy making best practices including:

- Define a resolution;
- Evaluate a resolution (weak or strong);
- Discuss what items are part of TMA's scope of work; and
- Discuss what happens to a resolution once it goes to the House of Delegates.

Attendees will earn 1 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™* for participating.

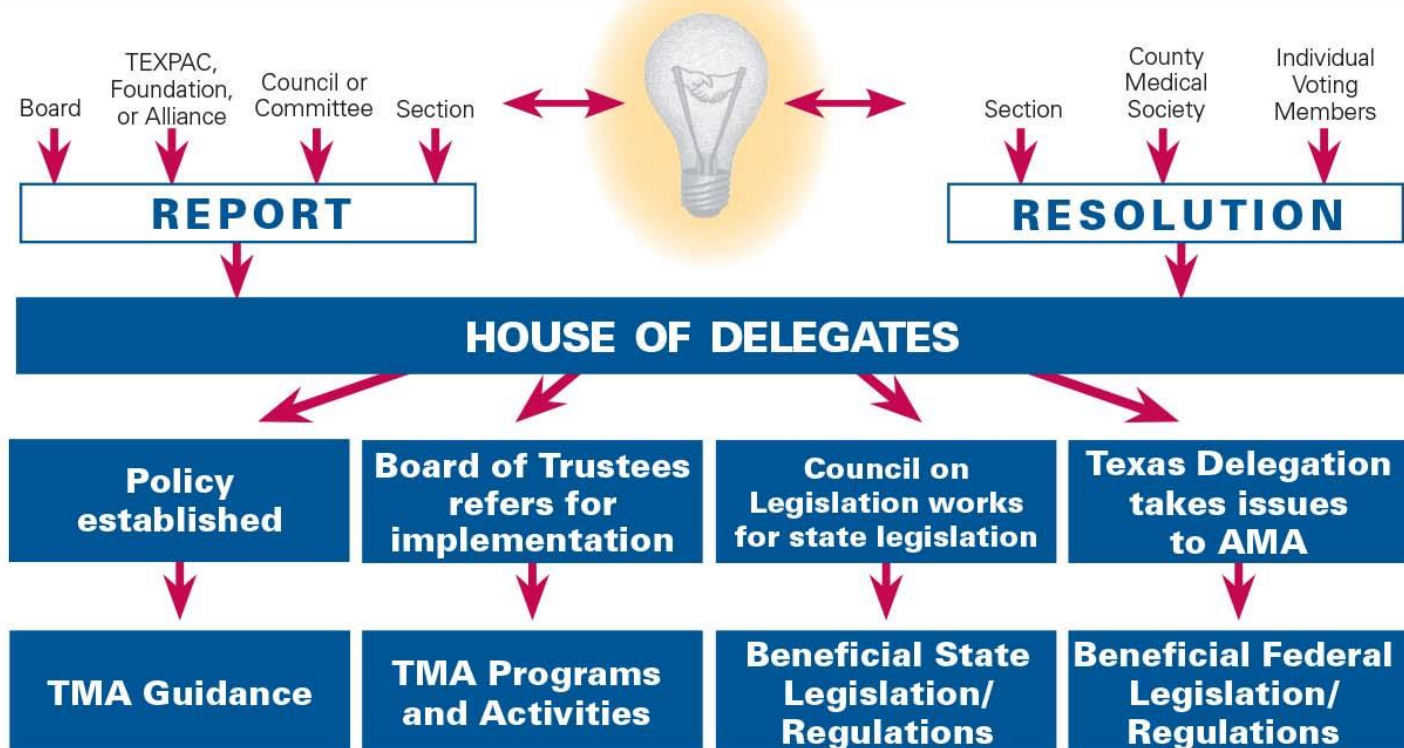
## Continuing Medical Education

The Texas Medical Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

TMA designates this live activity for a maximum of 1 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*.

Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

# From Idea to Policy



# House of Delegates

## Board of Councilors

- Physician Health and Wellness

## Board of Trustees

- Interspecialty Society
- Independent Physician Practice

## Texas Delegation to AMA

## Sections

- International Medical Graduates
- LGBTQ Health
- Medical Student
- Resident and Fellow
- Women Physicians
- Young Physician

## Councils

### Constitution and Bylaws

### Health Care Quality

### Health Promotion

### Health Service Organizations

### Legislation

### Medical Education

- Continuing Education
- Physician Distribution and Health Care Access

### Member Experience

- TexMed Education

### Science and Public Health

- Behavioral Health
- Cancer
- Child and Adolescent Health
- EMS and Trauma
- Infectious Diseases
- Reproductive, Women, and Perinatal Health

### Socioeconomics

- Alternative Payment Models
- Health Information Technology
- Medicaid, CHIP, and the Uninsured
- Medical Home and Primary Care
- Patient-Physician Advocacy
- Rural Health



# House Representation

- **Elected county delegates**
  - One delegate per 100 county society members
  - One delegate for each additional 100 members (or fraction thereof)
  - Members of counties without a county society charter are classified as “at-large” and also receive delegates.
- **Voting ex-officio members**
  - Members of the Board of Trustees
  - Past presidents and speakers
  - 15 councilors
  - AMA Delegation (delegates and alternates)
  - Members of the Council on Legislation
  - Council chairs
  - Section delegates
  - Specialty society delegates

# The Role of House Members

- Bringing physicians' grassroots concerns and opinions to the house
- Reporting back to fellow TMA members the actions of the house and information impacting the practice of medicine





# What Is a Resolution?

- Titles and resolves are key.
- Consider your action:
  - Does the requested action fall within TMA's scope of work?
  - Is it a request for study or for a policy change?
  - Remember, a resolution is a request, not a demand.
- Be specific
- Be realistic
- Rely on colleagues and mentors



# The Best Resolutions ...

- Help patients and physicians
- Meaningfully alter TMA policy or positions in a way that a majority of TMA members support
- Strengthen TMA
- Are timely
- Stick to the science and practice of medicine
- Are sponsored by the largest contingent of TMA (your county, section, or delegation)



# Tips for Writing a Resolution

- Separate out each item in a new resolve
- State the action you wish TMA to take
- Include any specific wording for addition to the TMA Policy Compendium
- See TMA handout, “TMA Resolution Process,” at [www.texmed.org/HOD](http://www.texmed.org/HOD)

# TMA Online Resolution Resources

[www.texmed.org/HOD](http://www.texmed.org/HOD)

- House of Delegates Guide
- Policy Compendium
- Audit Trail
- Election Process
- Balloting Procedure

[www.texmed.org/Policy](http://www.texmed.org/Policy)

## Find TMA Policy\*

The TMA Policy Compendium is a searchable database of official Texas Medical Association policy as passed by the TMA House of Delegates.

[Search Current Policies](#)

[View Current Policies Index](#)

## Ethics Opinions

An index of the official ethics opinions adopted by the TMA Board of Councilors.

[Search TMA Ethics](#)

## TMA Audit Trail

A searchable record of action items passed by the House of Delegates during the past 10 years.

[View Audit Trail](#)

## TMA House of Delegates

An online resource for information on TMA's House of Delegates, including current meeting details.

[House of Delegates](#)



# TMA Policy Compendium

- Searchable index of TMA policy at [texmed.org/Policy](http://texmed.org/Policy)
- Short-term actions may not be added.  
Ex: Adopted recommendation to write a letter to an agency or lobby a particular bill
- Long-term policies are maintained for 10 years, then subject to sunset review.

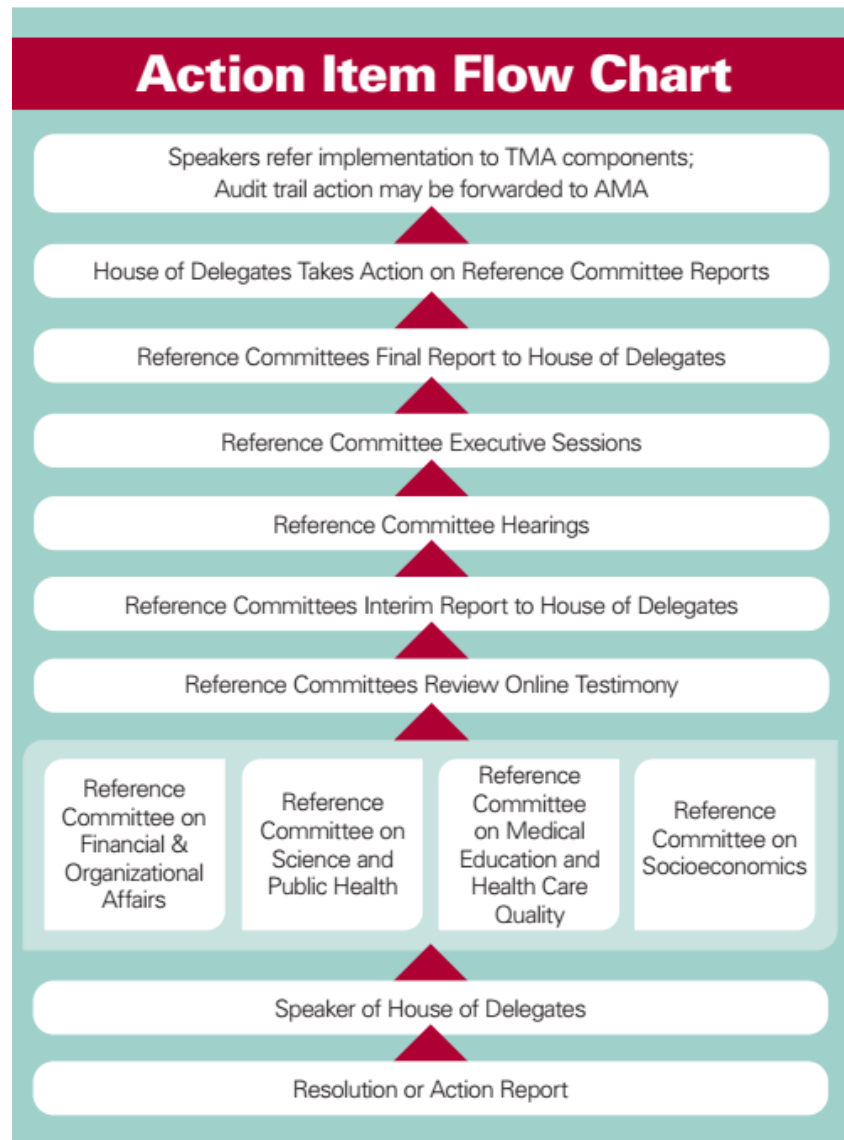


# Gaining Support for Your Resolution

- Colleagues
- Your county medical society
- Mentors
- Your caucus
- TMA sections
- TMA councils and committees
- Specialty societies

# The Journey of a Resolution

## Action Item Flow Chart



# Real Examples: From Idea to Law



Idea or Problem

Resolution

House Action

Policy

Law or Action

Access to  
Mental Health  
Care for  
Pediatric  
Patients

Resolution 323  
2022:  
Recommendations  
on Psychiatric  
Services for  
Pediatric Patients

Referred to:  
Committees on Child  
and Adolescent  
Health and Medicaid,  
CHIP, and the  
Uninsured. Became  
Joint Report 1 2023

TMA Policy  
55.069:  
Pediatric  
Psychiatric  
Care

SB 26 in 2023:  
Dedicated \$15  
million to expand  
local mental health  
treatment options  
for children and  
families.

Automatic  
Downcoding of  
Claims from AI  
Software or  
Algorithms

Resolution 403  
2024: Automatic  
Downcoding of  
Claims

Passed with  
minor  
amendments

TMA Policy  
65.015:  
Automatic  
Downcoding  
of Claims

Forwarded to the  
AMA, now in AMA  
workgroups to  
draft model  
legislation.



# Subjects Within TMA's Scope of Work

- Resolution 310 2019: Restricting the Sale of Electronic Cigarettes to Minors
  - ➔ Became TMA Policy 315.031
- Resolution 403 2019: Prior Authorization Approval
  - ➔ Became TMA Policy 235.040
- Resolution 102 2022: Preserving the Viability of Independent Physician Practice
  - ➔ Eventually established a Committee on Independent Physician Practice



# Legal Review of Resolutions

Outlined in House Standing Rules:

“All resolutions received by House of Delegates staff will be reviewed by the TMA Office of the General Counsel prior to inclusion in the *Handbook for Delegates*. When a resolution poses potential legal problems, the speaker, TMA legal counsel, or other TMA staff will communicate with the sponsor or county medical society regarding the legal concern(s).”



# Reference Committees

Resolution authors should:

- Be there early to be the first to speak (lay out your resolution)
- Be prepared for opposition
- Be prepared to compromise
- Be prepared with written information/testimony to give to the Ref Com staff
- Listen to all the debate and take notes for potential amendments
- Don't take disagreement or criticism personally
- BE RESPECTFUL



# Disposing of Business

Four choices the house has for an item:

1. Adopt
2. Not adopt
3. Refer
  - For study
  - For decision
4. Amend



# My Resolution Passed; Now What?

All adopted items are assigned to a TMA board, council, and/or committee.

Some items also will be added to the TMA Policy Compendium.

## Other possible actions are:

- Forwarding issue to AMA
- Lobbying a piece of legislation
- Developing education
- Forming a task force to work on the issue
- Further study by the relevant TMA component for additional recommendations
- Working with regulatory agencies
- Implementing community initiatives

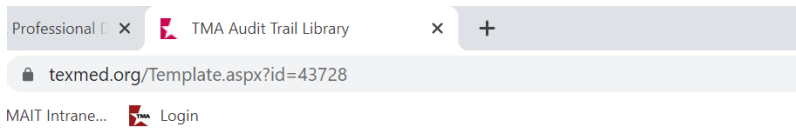


# TMA Audit Trail

- Tracking document of all items adopted or referred by the house
- Assigned to TMA components
- Report back to House of Delegates: Status of each item reported back at the next house meeting

# Audit Trail: Accountability in Action

Revised 8.3.2020



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## TMA Audit Trail Library

### The Audit Trail is TMA's mechanism for tracking each item adopted by the House of Delegates.

After TexMed, all adopted items are added to the TMA Audit Trail and referred to a TMA component (board, council, committee, or task force) for study or action. Prior to the next annual meeting, the Audit Trail is updated with the status of each item for reporting to the House of Delegates.

View a [compilation of TMA Audit Trails](#) going back to 2007. After opening the file, hit Ctrl+F to bring up a key word search box.

Looking for a TMA policy statement? Visit the [TMA Policy Compendium](#) page.

### 2019 AUDIT TRAIL

#### Action Items Adopted or Referred by the Texas Medical Association House of Delegates

*Awards/nominations, amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, and policy review recommendations are not included.*

#### 1 FROM REFERENCE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS:

2  
3 **Board of Councilors Report 6 – Sunset Policy Review:** That: (1) policies 245.010, Physician  
4 Discrimination, 160.019, Temporary Texas License for Medical Opinion and Testimony, and 160.012,  
5 Antitrust Laws, be retained; (2) policies 195.029, Registry for Advance Directives, and 105.017, Privacy of  
6 Medical Records, be deleted; and (3) policy 165.004, Government Competency Checks, be retained as  
7 amended. **Adopted.**

8  
9 **REFERRED TO:** Add to TMA Policy Compendium

10  
11 **STATUS:** (1) Policies 245.010, 160.019, and 160.012 reaffirm ed in TMA Policy  
12 Compendium; (2) policies 195.029 and 105.017 deleted from TMA Policy  
13 Compendium; and (3) policy 165.004 amended in TMA Policy  
14 Compendium.

15  
16 **Board of Trustees Report 14 – Inactive County Medical Societies:** That TMA: (1) define an active county  
17 medical society as one that provides the following annually: (a) a list of the reporting year's elected officers  
18 and delegates with their terms of office; (b) a list of the reporting year's meetings with attendance noted; (c)  
19 confirmation of the county medical society annual membership dues rate; and (d) evidence of filing county  
20 medical society annual federal nonprofit tax returns, such as IRS Form 990; (2) allow county medical  
21 societies with 50 or fewer members to reduce the number of required officers to three: president, president-  
22 elect, and secretary/treasurer; and (3) refer Board of Trustees Report 14-A-19 to the Council on Constitution  
23 and Bylaws for recommended bylaws amendments to implement recommendations 1 and 2. **Adopted.**

24  
25 **REFERRED TO:** Council on Constitution and Bylaws

26  
27 **STATUS:** See C-CB Report 2 2020 in Handbook.

28  
29 **Board of Trustees Report 15 – Sunset Policy Review:** Recommendation that policies 105.018, Fraud and  
30 Abuse Initiative, and 160.018, Statute of Limitations for Administrative Violations, be retained. **Adopted.**

31  
32 **REFERRED TO:** Add to TMA Policy Compendium

33  
34 **STATUS:** Policies 105.018 and 160.018 reaffirmed in TMA Policy Compendium.  
35



# Motion to Refer

## For study:

- TMA component will investigate and report back to the house with its findings and recommendation.
- Items may be referred “for study” to any TMA component.
- Unspecified referral = automatically “for study”

## For action/decision:

- TMA component is given full power by the house to adopt, not adopt, amend, or refer item further.
- Items may be referred “for action/decision” only to the Board of Trustees or the Board of Councilors.
- Higher-order motion than “for study”

Once a motion to refer is adopted, the **original item is considered disposed of by the house.**

All referred items will be reported back at the next annual meeting of the house.

# Referral Is Not a Bad Thing

Resolution 314 – Extreme Risk Protection Orders and Gun Violence  
(Ryan Van Ramshorst, MD, Texas Pediatric Society):  
That the Texas Medical Association advocate for legislation permitting  
extreme risk protection orders in Texas. **Referred.**



REFERRED TO: Council on Legislation and Council on Science  
and Public Health



As a result of it being referred, TMA President Doug Curran, MD,  
created a Firearms Workgroup. The workgroup evaluated TMA firearms  
policy and proposed a set of additional principles for consideration.

The resulting report next TexMed (see C-SPH Report 1-A-19) was a  
thoroughly researched, comprehensive policy recommendation that  
the house adopted in 2019.



# My Resolution Died; Now What?

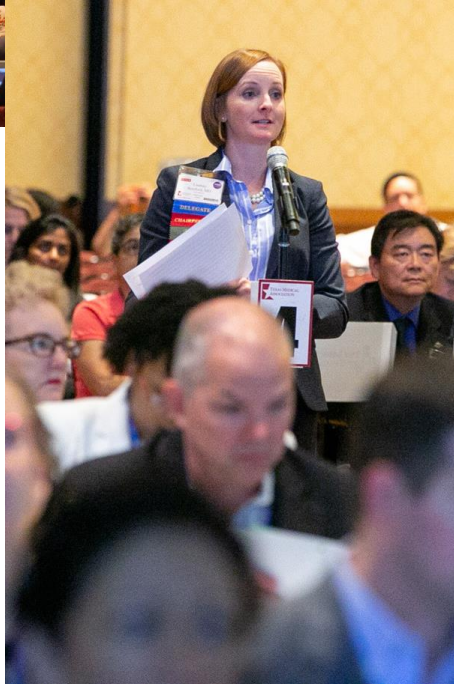
- Reasons a resolution did not pass
- Lessons learned
- How to refine and resubmit an idea



# Final Tips

- Do lots of research on the topic
- Find out who is in opposition and exactly why, and discuss with them
- Know basic parliamentary procedures – have plans (A, B, C) to deal with house floor action including dealing with strong opposition
- Review the *House of Delegates Handbook*
- Be prepared to have the resolution referred, if necessary

# The People Behind the Process





# How to Build Relationships

- **Attend meetings**

Go to your county medical society, student chapter, caucus, section, and TMA business meetings.

- **Attend conference events**

Don't skip the fun stuff – this is where real connections are made!

- **Make lasting connections**

Meeting new people leads to relationships that can help you now and in the future.

- **Stay connected**

Watch your email and social media to learn about all the opportunities available to you.

# The People Behind the Process





# Summary

- Be familiar with online TMA resources
- Ask for assistance from TMA staff
- Confirm with TMA staff that the resolve is within TMA's scope of work
- Remember that titles and resolves are the key portions of the resolution
- Work to obtain broad support early
- Build relationships throughout the process



# Q&A and Resolution Ideas Discussion

# How to Report CME for Credit

- 1 Scan the QR code



Or go to:

<https://cmeportal.texmed.org/>

Log in using your TMA website account log-in credentials.

- 2 Filter  
Location – Online  
Year – 2025

Name of Program:  
Policy Making 101

- 3 Enter Your Credits

Forgot your ...

Username? Request a reset link at [knowledge@texmed.org](mailto:knowledge@texmed.org).

Password? Request a reset on the log-in page.

# Complete CME Evaluation Survey



Scan the QR code to  
complete the continuing  
medical education  
evaluation survey

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Physicians Caring for Texans