

May 28,2017

Dear Delegate and Alternate Delegate,

I am writing with the endorsement of the DeKalb Medical Society to ask for your vote for re-election as your Delegate to the AMA. The challenges that we face in medicine today have never been greater. The future of our profession as we know it is on the brink of the abyss. The fallout of this "CHANGE" is yet to be determined. We have a lot of changes that have occurred and will continue to occur in the next few years, some will be good but some will threaten our autonomy with our patients and our ability to practice independent medicine. I will be your representative at the AMA HOD and I understand the issues. If we do not stand up for our right to care for our patients, we will lose that right.

We are threatened by a shortage of physicians in primary care and surgical specialties and are seeing an increase in the demand to see patients. With the health care reform act this has gotten worse in our state. The fall-out from this is an increase in the practice of physician extenders. These practitioners must be supervised by physicians to insure patient safety. We must stand up and make sure the changes that come do not interfere with our access to our patients.

The climate in which we practice medicine in this state has changed. Many physicians are now hospital employees. As payment models change we need someone to stand up for our doctors whether in private practice or in an employment agreement. I have served on the Relative Value Update committee for the past 15 years and understand payment policy. I will represent you well at the AMA. As the Vice-Chair of our Georgia Delegation I pledge to support the policies of Georgia and speak up for our concerns.

I have dedicated my career to working with organized medicine to help make our jobs less burdensome and to have more time which can be dedicated to our patients. I will continue as your AMA Delegate to put the patient physician relationship first and advocate for appropriate physician payment. Without physicians, there is no relationship. Please vote for me for your Delegate to the AMA.

Sincerely,

Sandra B. Reed, MD