



Dear Delegates and Alternate Delegates of The Medical Association of Georgia,

I am excited to announce my candidacy for election to the position of Alternate Delegate being vacated by Jack Chapman to serve in the AMA House of Delegates. Your support and vote will allow me to build upon the 15+ years of experience I already have in advocating for our patients and our profession—to take our HOD’s adopted policies and use them to develop better national health policy positions through our representation to the AMA.

So far this year the Coronavirus has disrupted nearly every aspect of our lives, from healthcare and education to social interactions, sports, small businesses, and family and professional events. Focused and energized involvement in organized medicine, including MAG and AMA, has perhaps never been more pivotal. Our organizations create and shape state and national health policies that allow physicians to continue to provide crucial healthcare to our patients and to be paid appropriately for that care.

During this unprecedented time, we have seen rapid adoption and increasing acceptance of telemedicine, which has no doubt saved many of our patients’ lives. But this monumental shift demonstrates the importance of having physicians involved in the policymaking process at every step along the way. It is more important than ever that we protect the physician-patient relationship and ensure technology is not replacing physicians with computer technicians and lesser trained professionals—but instead augmenting and improving our own abilities to provide care for even more of our patients.

Through the AMA, I will work to advance health policy to protect the physician-patient relationship. I am especially interested in the opportunities to address the unnecessary burdens of prior authorizations, the challenges of consolidation in the healthcare industry, the worsening malpractice environment in Georgia, scope of practice intrusions, and rising healthcare costs.

As a continuous member of both the AMA and my State Medical Society since medical school, I have attended numerous AMA conferences over the past 15 years and built strong relationships with young and older colleagues across the country along the way. I am dedicated to advancing organized medicine and my background supports my goals. I earned my Master’s in Public Health (MPH) jointly with my medical degree while at Tulane specifically to gain insight into the issues that cannot be solved in the clinic.

I have engaged in local, state, and national physician organizations. I am the current President of the Bibb County Medical Society and the Chair of MAG’s Young Physician Section (YPS). I am a proud graduate of the GPLA Class X and currently serve on MAG’s Finance Council, while also serving as the Oncology Quality Improvement Coordinator at Navicent Hospital. I am an active member of the American College of Radiation Oncology Economic Committee. During my training in Minnesota, I was the only resident in the country chosen to sit on two national ACGME committees and served on several committees for the Minnesota Medical Association before permanently moving “home” to Georgia.

I hope to continue to work in organized medicine throughout my entire career and am excited to take the next step to be considered as your AMA Alternate Delegate. I respectfully ask for your vote and look forward to “seeing” you all during the virtual HOD next month.

Sincerely,

Zachary Lopater, MD MPH