



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

I am seeking re-election for the position of Alternate Delegate to the American Medical Association (AMA), representing MAG at both the AMA interim meetings in November and annual meetings in June of each year. I hope to obtain your support and vote for my candidacy, which will allow me to continue to advocate for Georgia's physicians during AMA policy creation.

Despite COVID, the AMA continued to hold meetings virtually and recently in person in Chicago in 2022. We continue to adapt the practice of medicine, including expanding telemedicine, and I believe in equal payment for patient encounters over the phone and/or through video conferencing. However, we need to continue to protect the physician-patient relationship and ensure technology is not replacing physicians. Through the AMA, I will help to develop health policy to protect the physician-patient relationship, which often is threatened by prior authorizations, consolidation in healthcare, frivolous medical malpractice, scope of practice, and rising healthcare costs. I also support health policy that protects maternal health through patient education, access to affordable obstetric care, increased access to contraception, and expanded healthcare for mothers and children during the first year of life.

I have attended numerous AMA conferences over the past 17 years and built strong relationships while advocating for physicians. I hope to continue to work in organized medicine throughout my career and wish to continue my work as your AMA Alternate Delegate. I appreciate your support for my candidacy and look forward to seeing everyone at the House of Delegates meeting this October.

Sincerely,

Zachary Lopater, MD MPH

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