



**NEBRASKA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
2023 ANNUAL MEMEBERSHIP MEETING**

**AGENDA**

**8:00 – 9:30 am - CME: The Consumerization of Healthcare: Surviving Tech Disruption in Health**  
- Joel Selanikio, MD

**9:30 – 9:45 am - Break / Networking**

**9:45 -11:15 am - NMA BUSINESS MEETING**

- I. **Welcome - State of the NMA** - Daniel Rosenquist, MD, 2022-2023 President
- II. **Approval of Meeting Agenda**
- III. **Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2022**
- IV. **DHHS Chief Medical Officer Address** – Timothy Tesmer, MD
- V. **NMA Board of Directors Actions for Membership Ratification**
- VI. **Officer and Special Reports**
  - 50-Year Practitioners
  - NMA Board of Directors
  - Nebraska Medical Foundation
  - Nebraska Medical Services Corporation – Meeting Waiver
  - AMA Delegation
  - University of Nebraska College of Medicine Dean’s Report
  - University of Nebraska College of Medicine – AMA Student Chapter
  - Creighton University School of Medicine Dean’s Report
  - Creighton University School of Medicine – AMA Student Chapter
- VII. **Committee Reports**
  - Legislative Committee – Jordan Warchol, MD, Chair
  - Finance Committee – Jason Kruger, MD, Secretary/Treasurer
  - Nominating Committee – Daniel Rosenquist, MD, Chair
    - Presentation of the 2023-2024 Board of Directors Slate of Candidates
    - Election Results Announced
- VIII. **NMPAC Update** – Jordan Warchol, MD
- IX. **Necrology**
- X. **Dr. Susan LaFlesche Picotte Update** – Brit Thedinger, MD
- XI. **Excess Liability Fund Presentation** – Laura Arp, JD, Counsel and Claim Administrator and Cheryl Wolff, Department of Insurance

**XII. Resolutions**

Resolution Committee Report

1. Standard Time Throughout the Year
2. Reexamining Mandatory Training or Education
3. Oracle Cerner VA Electronic Health Record
4. Exempting Fetal Abnormalities from Abortion Ban
5. Amend the Let Them Grow Act and The Preborn Child Protection Act

**XIII. Unfinished Business**

**XIV. Adjournment of NMA Business Meeting at 11:15 am**

<b>11:30 – 12:45 pm</b>	<b>PHYSICIAN APPRECIATION LUNCHEON</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 50 Year Practitioner Recognition</li><li>▪ Annual Award Recognition</li><li>▪ 2023-2024 President Inauguration - John Trapp, MD</li></ul>
<b>12:45 – 1:00 pm</b>	<b>Break / Networking</b>
<b>1:00 – 2:00 pm</b>	<b>CME: AI in Healthcare</b> - Joel Selanikio, MD
<b>2:00 – 2:15 pm</b>	<b>Break / Networking</b>
<b>2:15 – 2:30 pm</b>	<b>Syphilis Incidence in Nebraska</b> - Matthew Donahue, MD, State Epidemiologist
<b>2:30 – 4:00 pm</b>	<b>CME: The Future of Medicaid in Nebraska</b> Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Kevin Bagley, Director of Medicaid &amp; Long-Term Care</li><li>- Christopher Elliott, MD, CMO Nebraska Total Care</li><li>- Debra Esser, MD, CMO Molina Healthcare</li><li>- Julie Fedderson, MD, CMO United Healthcare</li></ul>
<b>4:00 – 5:30 pm</b>	<b>2023 – 2024 NMA President Networking Reception</b> <i>Location: The Scarlet Hotel Lobby &amp; Bar</i>



**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**  
**Friday, August 19, 2022 – In-Person Meeting**

1. **Call NMA Annual Membership Business Meeting to order** – Dr. David Watts, 2021-2022 President, introduced several special guests attending the meeting, including eight past NMA Presidents.
2. **NMAEIC was the business meeting sponsor.**
3. **Meeting Agenda**
  - a. Dr. Michaels moved to approve the August 19, 2022, meeting agenda as written. Dr. Ford seconded the agenda, and it was approved unanimously by the membership.
4. **Meeting Minutes**
  - a. Dr. Spry moved to approve the September 17, 2021, House of Delegates minutes as written. Dr. Ford seconded the minutes, and they were approved unanimously by the membership.
5. **NMA Board of Directors Actions for Membership Ratifications** – Dr. Watts noted that attached to the Business Meeting packet is a list of the 2021-2022 Board Actions. Dr. Watts suggested the members review this list to reflect on all that has been done throughout the year. The NMA continues to diversify member benefits, membership engagement opportunities, and how we connect with our members.
6. **Officer and Special Reports** – Dr. Watts briefly reviewed the following officer and special reports:
  - 50-Year Practitioners – NMA recognizes 50-Year Practitioners annually. This year we will be recognizing twenty-nine 50-year Practitioners during the luncheon.
  - NMA Board of Directors report shows all the great work being done by the NMA Board of Directors and NMA staff. We have had multiple projects this past year and continue to provide relevant and engaging opportunities for our members.
  - Nebraska Medical Foundation provided \$26,000 in scholarships to 13 medical school students. The board also funded grants for the Nebraska Cancer Coalition and the Lancaster County Medical Foundation.
  - Nebraska Medical Services Corporation – Meeting Waiver
  - AMA Delegation – NMA delegates were finally able to attend a meeting in-person in June at the AMA Annual Meeting in Chicago. They will be attending the Interim meeting in November in-person as well. We are fortunate to have such engaged and motivated delegates to advocate for Nebraska physicians. The AMA delegates for 2021-2022 are Dr. Watts, Dr. Caverzagie, Dr. Warchol and Dr. Wergin.
  - Dr. Watts noted that Nebraska is blessed to have two great medical institutions and we appreciate their partnership and leadership. Dr Watts encourages the members to get to know the medical students on the NMA Board of Directors and those taking on leadership capacities within their schools. Reports from the respective Dean’s and medical student chapters are included.

- UNMC – Dean’s Report
- UNMC – AMA Student Chapter
- Creighton University School of Medicine – Deans Report
- Creighton University School of Medicine – AMA Student Chapter

7. **Committee and Commission Reports** - Legislative Committee – During the 2022 session, 593 bills were introduced and 148 were passed into law. The Governor vetoed 4 those bills, of which the Legislature chose to override three of the vetoes. The NMA was directly engaged with 70 bills and monitored an additional 78 bills. The NMA sponsored LB 1007 and was also successful getting \$5 million dollars of ARPA funding allocated to the student loan repayment program.
8. **Financial Report** - Jason Kruger, Treasurer and Secretary of the NMA Board of Directors, reported that the board reviews and assesses the financial status of the association on a continual basis and we are pleased to report that the NMA is financially healthy. The stability of our membership numbers is beneficial to maintain a healthy status. The NMA has benefited by the consistent number of dues paying members over the years. At the end of 2020 NMA has net assets totaling \$6.6 million with total cash on hand of \$7.8 million. As of July 31, 2022 the NMA has \$7.3 in investments at First National Bank. The investment balance at the end of 2021 was \$8.3 million. The NMA investment accounts have been impacted by the changes in the stock market this last year. The NMA EVP continues to meet regularly with our investment advisors to closely monitor the account and act accordingly. We continually look for opportunities to deliver high quality benefits for our members while contributing to our non-dues’ revenue. NMA dues have not increased since 1996. Throughout 2021, NMA was able to maintain a balanced budget totaling just over \$2 million, with expenses just over \$1.8 million.
9. **Guest Speaker** – Patrick Hotovy, MD, Legislative Candidate District #24 – Dr. Hotovy is a legislative candidate who has been a long-standing member of the NMA, graduate of the NMA Physician Leadership Academy and a family physician in York. Dr. Hotovy discussed why he is running for office and what he hopes to accomplish.
10. **NMPAC** - Dr. Watts stressed the importance of all NMA members contributing to the NMPAC. The NMA represents the physician and patient voice at the Nebraska Legislature, with the help of the nonpartisan Nebraska Medical Political Action Committee, NMPAC. The NMPAC is the only PAC in Nebraska that represents the unified voice of medicine.

Dr. Thedinger, Past President of the NMA, NMPAC Board Member and long-time supporter of the NMPAC, provided the membership with an update on the NMPAC. For 2022 there has been over \$14,000 in contributions, and just over \$116,000 in the fund. We had 39 physicians contribute to the fund this year. We need policies to support physicians to promote the health of all Nebraskans. Dr. Thedinger asked the attendees to make sure to donate to the PAC so we can continue to collaborate with the candidates and senators to support our physicians.

11. **Nominating Committee** – Dr. Walsh, Immediate Past President of the NMA and chair of the Nominating Committee, delivered the committee’s report. This committee was formalized in the passing of the newly adopted by-laws to establish structure around the nomination and election process of the Board of Directors positions and AMA delegation, which also included a little modernizing and now allows for electronic voting. The voting period met the criteria established in the by-laws that include being posted for members to access 14-days prior to the annual meeting. Voting was announced and opened for voting on August 3, 2022. Dr. Walsh reviewed the slate of candidates and announced the election results:

<u>President</u> -	Dan Rosenquist, MD
<u>President Elect</u> -	John Trapp, MD
<u>At-Large Directors</u> -	Julie Hamann, MD
	Robert Wergin, MD
	Jonathan Morgan, MD
<u>LCMS At-Large Directors</u> -	Rachel Blake, MD
	Jamie Dodge, MD

12. **Necrology** – Dr. Watts read the list of Physicians on the 2022 Necrology list:

- David Bolm, MD
- Matthew Bruner, MD
- Frederick Catlett, MD
- Roger Cutshall, MD
- Heather Dews, MD
- Michael Hanich, MD
- Karen Lauer-Silva, MD
- Edward Malashock, MD
- Charles Marlowe, MD
- Barry Munyon, MD
- Byron Oberst, MD, FAPP
- Richard O’Brien, MD
- Robert Stratbucker, MD
- Seyyed Taghavi, MD
- Stanley Truhlsen, MD

13. **Resolutions**

Dr. Watts introduced Dr. Balasanova who brought forward a resolution in 2021 that was unanimously supported to study the barriers of a syringe exchange program in Nebraska. She provided a summary of the work that has been completed over the last year.

As per the NMA by-laws, the President of the NMA can appoint a member to facilitate the resolution portion of the meeting. Dr. Watts asked Dr. Caverzagie lead the discussion. Members were asked to keep all comments to 90 seconds so we there would be enough time for everyone to be heard on the resolutions. NMA staff provided live edits.

INTRODUCED BY: Metro Omaha Medical Society

SUBJECT: Revise Nebraska Medicaid Sobriety Clause to Include Coverage for Hepatitis C Treatment for Patients with History of Cannabis Use

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WHEREAS, An estimated 7,900 people in Nebraska are infected with Hepatitis C virus (HCV)<sup>6</sup>, and

WHEREAS, Untreated HCV can progress to detrimental diseases such as liver cirrhosis, liver cancer, and liver failure, which come with a high economic burden<sup>3</sup>, and

WHEREAS, The annual per-person Medicaid healthcare costs attributed to HCV infection were estimated to cost up to \$46,000 per case depending on the severity of liver damage<sup>2</sup>, and

WHEREAS, Treatments for HCV, one of them being Sofosbuvir, are available and have cure rates of more than 90 percent<sup>9</sup>, and

WHEREAS, With HCV treatment, an estimated \$15,907 per year in healthcare costs may be avoided per individual<sup>2</sup>, and

WHEREAS, Certain Medicaid patients in the state of Nebraska have restricted access to HCV treatment due to sobriety restrictions, *Cannabis* use being one of them<sup>7, 13</sup>, and

WHEREAS, Restrictions to treat patients with HCV cause life-threatening delays while prompt treatment reduces mortality and complications of the disease<sup>8</sup>, and

WHEREAS, Multiple studies have shown, *Cannabis* use, or derivatives of Cannabidiol (CBD), do not influence adherence to or efficacy of HCV treatment<sup>1, 4, 10</sup>, and

WHEREAS, Kansas and Missouri eliminated their sobriety restrictions for Medicaid patients seeking HCV treatment<sup>11, 12</sup>, and

WHEREAS, Due to Kansas eliminating their HCV sobriety restrictions in 2018, the state went from spending \$14,581,264 in 2016 to spending \$7,993,885 in 2020 on HCV case payments<sup>5</sup>, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That the Metro Omaha Medical Society and the Nebraska Medical Association support improving access to HCV treatment by removing *Cannabis* from the HCV treatment prior authorization criteria.

References:

Christensen S, Buggisch P, Mauss S, et al. Alcohol and Cannabis Consumption Does Not Diminish Cure Rates in a Real-World Cohort of Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infected Patients on Opioid Substitution Therapy—Data from the German Hepatitis C-Registry (DHC-R).

*Substance Abuse*. 2019;13:1178221819835847. doi:[10.1177/1178221819835847](https://doi.org/10.1177/1178221819835847)

M. Christopher Roebuck P, Joshua N. Liberman P. Assessing the Burden of Illness of Chronic Hepatitis C and the Impact of Direct-Acting Antiviral Use on Healthcare Costs in Medicaid. *Supplements and Featured Publications*. 2019;25(8). Accessed June 19, 2022.

<https://www.ajmc.com/view/assessing-burden-illness-chronic-hepatitis-impact-antiviral-healthcare-costs-medicaid>

Hepatitis C - Symptoms and causes. Mayo Clinic. Accessed June 19, 2022.

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/hepatitis-c/symptoms-causes/syc-20354278>

Liu T, Howell GT, Turner L, Corace K, Garber G, Cooper C. Marijuana Use in Hepatitis C Infection does not Affect Liver Biopsy Histology or Treatment Outcomes. *Canadian Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology*. 2014;28(7):381-384. doi:[10.1155/2014/804969](https://doi.org/10.1155/2014/804969)

Medical Assistance Reports. Accessed June 19, 2022. <https://www.kancare.ks.gov/policies-and-reports/medical-assistance-report>

Nebraska. HepVu. Accessed June 19, 2022. <https://hepvu.org/local-data/nebraska/>

Nebraska. Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access. Accessed June 19, 2022.

<https://stateofhepc.org/states/nebraska/>

Cipriano LE, Goldhaber-Fiebert JD. Population Health and Cost-Effectiveness Implications of a “Treat All” Recommendation for HCV: A Review of the Model-Based Evidence. *MDM Policy & Practice*. 2018;3(1):2381468318776634. doi:[10.1177/2381468318776634](https://doi.org/10.1177/2381468318776634)

Liao JM, Fischer MA. Restrictions of Hepatitis C Treatment for Substance-Using Medicaid Patients: Cost Versus Ethics. *Am J Public Health*. 2017;107(6):893-899. doi:[10.2105/AJPH.2017.303748](https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2017.303748)

Russell M, Pauly MP, Moore CD, et al. The Impact of Lifetime Drug Use on Hepatitis C Treatment Outcomes in Insured Members of an Integrated Health Care Plan. *Drug Alcohol Depend*. 2014;134:222-227. doi:[10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2013.10.001](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2013.10.001)

Kansas. Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access. Accessed June 19, 2022.

<https://stateofhepc.org/states/kansas/>

Missouri\*. Hepatitis C: State of Medicaid Access. Accessed June 19, 2022.

<https://stateofhepc.org/states/missouri/>

Prior Authorization Criteria For treatment of Chronic Hepatitis C (CHC). 2021. Accessed July 6, 2022. [https://nebraska.fhsc.com/Downloads/NEcriteria\\_HepatitisC.pdf](https://nebraska.fhsc.com/Downloads/NEcriteria_HepatitisC.pdf)

***Following introduction by Samantha Thomas and discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.***

INTRODUCED BY: Metro Omaha Medical Society

SUBJECT: Telehealth Parity

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WHEREAS, both patients and physicians have found telehealth to be beneficial to the access of healthcare for all types,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Nebraska Medical Association will work to preserve availability of telehealth for medical and mental health needs with parity of reimbursement.

***Following introduction by Dr. Northam and discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.***



INTRODUCED BY: Ahsan Naseem, MD

SUBJECT: Focus on Healthcare Provider Diversity

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WHEREAS, Evidence shows that a diverse healthcare provider workforce promotes better access and better outcomes, and

WHEREAS Patients are able to more effectively communicate with providers who speak their language and may also receive better care. Patients with limited English proficiency experience higher rate of medical errors and worse clinical outcomes, and

WHEREAS Increased patient trust can be established when a diverse patient is treated by a healthcare provider with a similar background, and

WHEREAS Improved cultural competence and ethnic and racial diversity can help to alleviate healthcare disparities, and improve healthcare outcomes in diverse patient populations, and

WHEREAS AMA has adopted policies to encourage medical schools, health care institutions, managed care, and other appropriate groups to adopt policies identifying the importance of diversity and recruiting those who share that goal, and

WHEREAS AMA has developed programs liked Doctors Back to School program to encourage a more diverse workforce, and

WHEREAS The State of Nebraska does not have a centralized resource to evaluate the current state of diversity among the licensed healthcare providers in the state.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Our Nebraska Medical Association support the creation of a committee/task force to develop strategies to make diversity, equity, and inclusion integral to the NMA and the Nebraska physician workforce.

References:

Stanford, F. C. (2020, April 23). The importance of diversity and inclusion in the healthcare workforce. Journal of the National Medical Association. Retrieved July 18, 2022, from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0027968420300663?via%3Dihub2>.

Health Research & Educational Trust. (2015, July). Diversity in Health Care: Examples from the Field. Chicago, IL: Health Research & Educational Trust. Accessed at [www.hpoe.org](http://www.hpoe.org)

American Medical Association. 2022. AMA adopts new policy to increase diversity in physician workforce. [online] Available at: <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-adopts-new-policy-increase-diversity-physician-workforce>.

Greenwood, H., 2022. The Importance of Effective Communication in Nursing | USAHS. [online] University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences. Available at: <https://www.usa.edu/blog/communication-in-nursing/>.

Rothman, P. B. Diversity in medicine has measurable benefits. Diversity in Medicine has Measurable Benefits. Retrieved July 18, 2022, from <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/news/articles/diversity-in-medicine-has-measurable-benefits>

Green, A. R. (2017, March 1). Language-Based Inequity in Health Care: Who Is the “Poor Historian”? Journal of Ethics | American Medical Association. Retrieved July 18, 2022, from <https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/language-based-inequity-health-care-who-poor-historian/2017-03>

Alsan, M. (2019, December). Does Diversity Matter for Health? Experimental Evidence from Oakland. American Economic Association. <https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/aer.20181446>

Workforce Diversity. (2022). American Academy of Family Physicians. [Workforce Diversity \(aafp.org\)](https://www.aafp.org)

***Following introduction by Dr. Naseem and discussion, a motion was made, Dr. Wescott seconded and approved unanimously.***

INTRODUCED BY: Marvin J. Bittner, MD

SUBJECT: Promoting Evidence-Based Policies to Reduce the Public Health Impact of Excessive Drinking

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WHEREAS, excessive alcohol use, including underage drinking and binge drinking, kills about 720 Nebraskans each year, and

WHEREAS, excessive alcohol use cost Nebraska nearly \$1.2 billion, or about \$1.60 per drink, in lost productivity, healthcare, and criminal justice and other expenses in 2010, and

WHEREAS, binge drinking is responsible for at least 1 in 3 of these deaths and over 70% of these costs and is associated with a host of health and social problems, including heart disease, high blood pressure, breast cancer, sexually transmitted diseases, motor vehicle crashes, opioid overdoses, violence, and suicide, among others, and

WHEREAS, the likelihood of experiencing many of these harms is directly related to the frequency and intensity of binge drinking, and

WHEREAS, Nebraska ranks as the fourth-worst binge drinking state (20.4% of population over 21 years with  $\geq 1$  episode of binge drinking in the past 30 days) according to 2020 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data; and

WHEREAS, several Nebraska cities have among the highest binge drinking rates in the country<sup>1</sup>, including Lincoln (24.3%), Omaha (20.2%), Sioux City (18.6%) and Grand Island (18.4%), AND

WHEREAS, this pattern of alcohol consumption drags down our state's health rankings and affects the desirability of Nebraska as a place to live and do business, and

WHEREAS, Alcohol consumption is strongly influenced by the environment in which people make their decisions about whether and how much to drink, and

WHEREAS, Research has clearly shown that states that have stronger policies related to the price and availability of alcoholic beverages tend to have lower rates of binge drinking and related harms and vice versa; and

WHEREAS, the independent Community Preventive Services Task Force<sup>2</sup> recommends several evidence-based strategies for reducing excessive drinking and related harms<sup>3</sup>, including increasing alcohol taxes, regulating alcohol outlet density (the number and concentration of alcohol retailers in communities), and commercial host (Dram Shop) liability (holding alcohol retailers civilly liable for harms related to the illegal sale of alcohol to youth and intoxicated patrons); and

WHEREAS, a 2014 CDC report found that Nebraska had some of the lowest alcohol tax rates on beer, wine, and liquor in the country<sup>4</sup>; and our commercial host liability has major

limitations<sup>4</sup>WHEREAS, both patients and physicians have found telehealth to be beneficial to the access of healthcare for all types,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Nebraska Medical Association recommends implementing evidence-based policies that discourage the excessive drinking, including those cited in the Community Guide to Preventive Services<sup>5</sup>

References:

[https://nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSSPrevalence/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=DPH\\_BRFSS.ExploreByTopic&irbLocationType=StatesAndMMSA&isClass=CLASS01&isTopic=TOPIC07&isYear=2020&rdRnd=18215](https://nccd.cdc.gov/BRFSSPrevalence/rdPage.aspx?rdReport=DPH_BRFSS.ExploreByTopic&irbLocationType=StatesAndMMSA&isClass=CLASS01&isTopic=TOPIC07&isYear=2020&rdRnd=18215)

<https://www.thecommunityguide.org/task-force/what-is-the-cpstf>

<https://www.thecommunityguide.org/topic/excessive-alcohol-consumption>

<https://wwwn.cdc.gov/psr/Default.aspx>

<https://www.thecommunityguide.org/content/task-force-findings-excessive-alcohol-consumption>

***Following introduction by Dr. Bittner and discussion, a motion was made, Dr. Ford seconded and approved unanimously.***

INTRODUCED BY: Todd Pankratz, MD

SUBJECT: Oppose Criminalization of Physicians Providing Care Within Scope of Training and Accepted Standard of Medical Care for Their Specialty

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WHEREAS, physicians have a professional and ethical obligation to act in the best interest of their patients by following evidence-based practices,

WHEREAS, physicians are obligated to act in the best interest of their patients' access to needed medical services,

WHEREAS, the physician-patient relationship relies on a physician's ability to use his or her medical judgement as to the information or treatment that is in the best interest of a patient,

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Medical Association must take all reasonable and necessary steps to ensure that its members can exercise medical decision-making and treatment in good faith,

WHEREAS, Nebraska state laws should not expose physicians to criminal liability for practicing within the accepted standard of medical care and within the scope of training for their specialty,

WHEREAS, when government or other third parties seek to criminalize a physician's ability to use his or her professional medical judgement as to the treatment that is in the best interest of a patient it severely compromises the trusted nature of the physician-patient relationship,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Nebraska Medical Association affirms government and other third-party interference in evidence-based medical care compromises the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship and undermines the provision of quality health care,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Nebraska Medical Association opposes any government regulation or legislative action which would criminalize physicians for providing evidence-based medical care. ~~within the accepted standard of care according to nationally recognized professional practice guidelines, and the scope of a physician's training and~~

~~professional judgement.~~

*Following introduction and discussion, a motion was made for changes in the amendment, Dr. Spry seconded and approved unanimously.*

*Following introduction and discussion for the entire resolution, a motion was made, Dr. Rodabaugh seconded and approved unanimously.*

NMA-8-22

RESOLUTION #6

INTRODUCED BY: Metro Omaha Medical Society

SUBJECT: Physician Patient Relationships

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the NMA advocate against any legislative or governmental interference in the physician-patient relationship, the criminalization of the evidence-based practice of medicine or other effort to supersede a physician's clinical judgment to benefit the care of a patient.

***Following introduction by MOMS and discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.***

INTRODUCED BY: Maureen Boyle, MD

SUBJECT: Nebraska Medical Association Support to Preserve Reproductive Rights

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WHEREAS, the Nebraska Medical Association (NMA) is an organization which advocates for physicians practicing medicine in the state of Nebraska; and the NMA states, "Our mission is to serve physician members by advocating for the medical profession, for patients and for the health of all Nebraskans," and

WHEREAS the American Medical Association and other medical specialty organizations are united and adamantly opposed to imposing criminal/civil penalties or other retaliation upon those providing reproductive health care services,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Opposes limitations on access to evidence-based reproductive health services including fertility treatments, contraception, ~~and~~ abortion, ~~and~~ neonatal hospice;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Supports shared decision-making between patients and their physicians regarding reproductive health care;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Opposes any effort to undermine the basic medical principle that clinical assessment, such as viability of the pregnancy and safety of the pregnant person, are determinations to be made only by the healthcare professionals with their patients;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Opposes the imposition of criminal and civil penalties or any other retaliatory efforts such as licensure restrictions or revocation against patients, patient advocates, physicians, other healthcare workers, and health systems for receiving, assisting in, referring patients to, or providing reproductive health services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Will advocate for legal protections for patient who cross state lines to receive reproductive health services, including contraception and abortion, or who receive medications for contraception and abortion from across state lines, and legal protections for those that provide, support, or refer patients to these health services.

***Following introduction by Dr. Boyle and discussion, a motion was made, Dr. Chesen seconded and approved.***



14. **Unfinished Business** – None reported

15. **Adjourn at 10:55 AM**



## 2021-2022 Board Actions for NMA Membership

August 18, 2022

- Approved meeting minutes from June 16, 2022, unanimously.
- Approved consent agenda unanimously.
- The NMA Code of Conduct Document for all members was adopted unanimously.
- NMA Board of Directors meeting dates changed to February, May, August, and November was approved unanimously.

November 17, 2022

- Approved meeting minutes from August 18, 2022, unanimously.
- Approved consent agenda unanimously.
- Board of Directors membership letter regarding the NMA position on reproductive healthcare was approved unanimously.
- Amy Reynoldson appointed to Physicians Foundation Board of Directors was approved unanimously.
- Approved 2023 annual budget and staff salaries unanimously.

February 16, 2023

- Approved meeting minutes from November 17, 2022, unanimously.
- Approved consent agenda unanimously.

May 18, 2023

- Approved meeting minutes from February 16, 2023, unanimously.
- Approved consent agenda unanimously.
- Updated Resolution Policy and adopted unanimously.
- 2023 Board of Directors slate of candidates approved unanimously.

Robert J. Anderson, MD (Omaha)  
Arthur Annin, MD (Lincoln)  
James Armitage, MD (Omaha)  
Ron Asher, MD (North Platte)  
Adeleke Badejo, MD (Kearney)  
Craig Bartruff, MD (McCook)  
Samuel Boon, MD (Lincoln)  
LeRoy Carhart, MD (Bellevue)  
John Ferguson, MD (Omaha)  
Timothy Fitzgibbons, MD (Omaha)  
Benjamin Gelber, MD (Lincoln)  
Chuck Gregorius, MD, FACA (Lincoln)  
Herbert Hartman, MD (Omaha)  
David Heiser, MD (Lincoln)  
Richard Hranac, MD (Kearney)  
Laurie Humphries, MD (Omaha)  
Gary Kilian, DO (Lincoln)  
Lynell Klassen, MD (Omaha)  
Louis Kleager, MD (Grand Junction, CO)  
Gerald Luckey, MD (David City)  
Michael McCoy, MD (Lincoln)  
David Meyer, MD (Omaha)  
Mark Meyer, MD (Kearney)  
David Michels, MD (Omaha)  
Michael Morrison, MD (Omaha)  
Richard P. Murphy, MD (Waterloo)  
Richard Osterholm, MD (Omaha)  
Eric Pierson, MD (Lincoln)  
Laurel Preheim, MD (Omaha)  
Sandhya Saxena, MBBS (Lincoln)  
WM Schlichtemeier, MD, FAAO, FACS (Omaha)  
Stephen Swanson, MD (Lincoln)  
Bruce Taylor, MD (Lincoln)  
Dean Thomson, MD (Nebraska City)  
Paul Tomich, MD (Downers Grove, IL)  
John Walburn, MD (Omaha)  
Tom Williams, MD, FCAP (Denton)  
Orlyn Wingert, MD (Omaha)  
H. Randal Woodward, MD (Omaha)

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3 Daniel Rosenquist, MD, President John Trapp, MD, Lincoln, President-Elect  
4 Jason Kruger, MD, Lincoln, Sec./Treas. David Watts, MD, Omaha, Past-President  
5 Phil Boucher, MD, Lincoln, At-Large Dir. Jose Friesen, MD, Grand Island, At-Large Dir.  
6 Julie Hamman, MD, Lincoln, At-Large Dir. Jonathan Morgan, MD, Scottsbluff, At-Large Dir.  
7 Tod Voss, MD, Pierce, At-Large Dir. Robert Wergin, MD, Milford, At-Large Dir.  
8 Mark Davis, MD, Norfolk, GN Director Josue Gutierrez, MD, Crete, GN Director  
9 Rachel Blake, MD, Lincoln, LCMS Director Jaime Dodge, MD, Lincoln, LCMS Director  
10 Tina Scott-Mordhorst, MD, Omaha, MOMS Dir. Travis Teetor, MD, Omaha, MOMS Director  
11 Kelly Caverzagie MD, Omaha–AMA Delegate Robert Dunlay, MD, Dean, Creighton Rep.  
12 Jordan Warchol, MD, UNMC Representative Michael Visenio, MD, Omaha - Resident  
13 David Filipi, MD, Omaha, Ex-Officio Alvina Le, Creighton Student  
14 Marcos Gonzalez Perez, Creighton Student Danielle Dircks, UNMC Student  
15 Elena Einspahr, UNMC Student  
16

17 The Board of Directors met in November 2022, February 2023, May 2023, and August 2023  
18 subsequent to the session of the 2023 NMA Annual Membership Meeting. Your board presents the  
19 following report to the House of Delegates for its consideration and approval.  
20

21 **Advocacy & Legislation**

22 The NMA advocacy efforts are continuously evolving based on issues brought forward by members  
23 and other organizations. Over the past year the NMA has been engaged in the following areas:

- 24 • Access to Care – The NMA advocate for payer policies that allow patients access to standard  
25 of care including treatment, screening, and preventative healthcare services. This includes  
26 expanding cancer screenings, access to continuous glucose monitors and affordable  
27 medications including insulin.
- 28 • Excess Liability Fund – The NMA worked to sustain the fund by passing LB 68 that increased  
29 the underlying limit to \$800,000 beginning in 2025. The NMA continues to monitor the status  
30 of the Fund to ensure that it is solvent.
- 31 • Patient Safety – The NMA works closely with the Nebraska Coalition for Patient Safety and  
32 ensures that patient safety is at the forefront of every review we conduct of proposed  
33 legislation.
- 34 • Physician-Led Healthcare – The NMA advocates for physician led healthcare teams. Over  
35 91% of American’s say that physician education and training are vital for optimal care, and  
36 more than three-fourths would pay more and wait longer to be treated by a physician. 95%  
37 say it is important for a physician to be involved in their diagnosis and treatment. The NMA  
38 is working to ensure that Nebraskans have access to physician-led healthcare.
- 39 • Physician-Patient Relationship - The NMA is committed to preserving the physician-patient  
40 relationship and protecting physicians’ clinical judgment so that access to safe and quality  
41 care is not compromised. In addition, the NMA opposes the criminalization of physicians for  
42 providing healthcare within the standard of care.
- 43 • Physician Wellbeing - The NMA developed a physician wellness program, LifeBridge  
44 Nebraska, during a time where they need it the most. It is important for our physicians to  
45 know that they have a place to turn when they need to connect with a peer to discuss  
46 challenges that are going on in their life in hopes of addressing it early before it impacts

1 their ability to practice medicine. In 2023 the NMA was able to secure safe haven  
2 protections for physicians using LifeBridge Nebraska.

- 3 • Physician Workforce - The NMA has partnered with other statewide healthcare  
4 organizations and a payer to develop a K-12 grade curriculum that will be made available  
5 across the state to educate Nebraska youth about healthcare careers including being a  
6 physician. The NMA is a sustainability partner on this project and is committed to  
7 improving the physician workforce in Nebraska and is excited to be part of the Health  
8 Careers Pipeline Initiative. We are also dedicated to supporting the student loan repayment  
9 program and have been successful in securing funding to serve as many physicians as  
10 possible in the rural communities.
- 11 • Prior Authorization - Access to health care and receiving timely medical treatments is  
12 important for patients to maintain optimal care for their health conditions. Prior  
13 authorizations often are burdensome, disrupting access to timely, necessary medical care.  
14 The NMA continues to work with payers on ways to address the prior authorization  
15 concerns to ultimately remove barriers for patients to access medical treatment to improve  
16 outcomes and reduce unnecessary healthcare costs due to disjointed care.
- 17 • Reimbursement Rate Increases - The NMA is working diligently to ensure that physicians  
18 are reimbursed for their healthcare services at an appropriate rate. The NMA works closely  
19 with payers (MLTC and commercial) to discuss rates to ensure that access to healthcare is  
20 not further impacted by the significantly delayed rate increases that are necessary to keep  
21 physician clinics open to provide care.
- 22 • Scope of Practice - The NMA advocates for Nebraskans to ensure patients are accessing  
23 healthcare through properly trained and educated healthcare providers. We also work to  
24 prevent inappropriate scope expansion that goes beyond what the healthcare  
25 professional's education and training has prepared them to do where patient safety is  
26 compromised.

### 27 28 **DEI Task Force**

29 The NMA launched the DEI Task Force after a resolution was passed by the NMA membership at the  
30 2022 Annual Meeting. The Task Force recently met to begin the strategic planning process. The  
31 priority areas include improving healthcare outcomes in marginalized communities, linking patients  
32 to care, collecting data on patient and physician demographics in Nebraska, and creating awareness  
33 about DEI by providing education.

### 34 35 **Membership**

36 The Nebraska Medical Association currently has 2,457 members. Of these members, 1,622 are  
37 actively practicing physicians, 275 are fellows/residents, and 148 are medical students. NMA EVP is  
38 meeting with physicians across the state to learn what the physicians' needs are and how the NMA  
39 can support them.

40  
41 The Greater Nebraska Medical Caucus (GNMC) is re-organizing and gaining momentum after holding  
42 a meeting in late July to discuss leadership within the caucus. GNMC members prioritized  
43 membership engagement and recruitment in the coming months. GNMC will meet quarterly going  
44 forward to discuss identified issues, vote on caucus positions, and engage in NMA efforts.

45

1 NMA staff are expanding the physician recruitment and member onboarding efforts by developing a  
2 multi-dimensional process to connect with prospective and new members.

### 3 4 **Communications**

5 The NMA continues to provide diversified communications with our members by utilizing direct  
6 emails, distributing a bi-weekly e-newsletter (STAT), publishing the NMA magazine (*The Advocate*)  
7 quarterly, including resources on the NMA website, and sharing information through social media  
8 outlets.

### 9 10 **Continuing Medical Education**

11 The NMA supports 11 accredited CME providers across the state. Mike Romano, MD, is the NMA  
12 CME Committee chair. His expertise and experience are a valuable asset to the providers across the  
13 state. The NMA has provided continuing education for several partners throughout the year  
14 including specialty societies, NMA Physicians Leadership Academy, DHHS Division of Public Health  
15 and Division of Behavioral Health, Nebraska Coalition for Patient Safety, UNMC Truhlsen Eye  
16 Institute, and Nebraska Cancer Coalition.

17  
18 In 2022, the NMA CME accredited organizations collectively provided 547 activities that totaled  
19 2,527.5 CME credits to 41,950 learners.

### 20 21 **Physician Leadership Academy**

22 The NMA Physician Leadership Academy will begin its 7th year in October. There have been 73  
23 physicians that have completed the academy since its inception. Pam Hernandez continues to  
24 facilitate the academy and has done an exceptional job keeping the information and materials  
25 relevant and physicians engaged. The academy is funded by the Nebraska Medical Foundation and a  
26 Physicians Foundation grant.

27  
28 Registration is still open for the 2023-2024 cohort. If you are interested in this incredible opportunity,  
29 reach out to the NMA office to learn more.

### 30 31 **NMA Physician Health Plan (NMAEIC)**

32 The NMA continues to partner with BCBSNE and FNIC (formerly The Harry Koch Company) to provide  
33 guidance and review the health plan performance, marketing efforts, and potential plan design  
34 modifications. Quarterly meetings are held with NMA staff to provide updates on the above items to  
35 continue to assure this member benefit remains a good value for NMA members and their employees.

36  
37 In summary, the health plan had a 10% renewal rate going into 2023. The fully funded health plan  
38 has just over 100 groups that are covered with just over 4,000 total lives on the plan.

### 39 40 **State Board Appointments**

41 The Nebraska Medical Association works closely with the State of Nebraska to recruit physicians to  
42 serve on various professional boards. Please contact the NMA office if you are interested in serving in  
43 a board capacity. A listing of boards requirements and vacancies can be found at [Board  
44 Requirements and Vacancies \(ne.gov\)](#).

### 45 46 **Specialty Societies**

47 The Nebraska Medical Association continues to expand and has administrative contracts with 14  
48 specialty society groups: Nebraska Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, Nebraska Academy

1 of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, Nebraska Association of Pathologists, Nebraska Chapter – American  
2 College of Cardiologists, Nebraska Chapter – American College of Emergency Physicians, Nebraska  
3 Dermatology Society, Nebraska Medical Directors Association, Nebraska Neurological Society,  
4 Nebraska Oncology Society, Nebraska Orthopedic Society, Nebraska Osteopathic Medical Association,  
5 Nebraska Radiological Society, Nebraska Rheumatology Society, and Nebraska Society of  
6 Anesthesiologists. The specialty societies are very active and continue to strengthen their  
7 membership by offering education, holding regularly scheduled meetings, and formalizing advocacy  
8 efforts.

### 9 10 **Grant Contracts**

11 The NMA contracts with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Division of  
12 Behavioral Health and Division of Public Health, to oversee the development and implementation of  
13 four grants that fund programs that focus on opioids, integrating behavioral health services and CME.

14  
15 The Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) program focuses on increasing the state’s provider  
16 capacity to treat persons with opioid use disorder. This program offers a continuum of education on  
17 MOUD ranging from the introduction of what MOUD is and how it can be used in your practice to  
18 getting MOUD trained to effectively provide this as a treatment option to your patients. The program  
19 also includes a mentoring component for the newly trained prescribers to assist them with the initial  
20 process of getting patients connected to this treatment. The newly trained prescriber is connected  
21 with an experienced and trained prescriber to provide support.

22  
23 Outreach efforts have expanded to working closely with the Nebraska Department of Justice Problem  
24 Solving Courts to provide education through a formalized training video. The program is also  
25 advancing efforts to align with the Department of Corrections to provide ongoing education with the  
26 ultimate goal of implementing MOUD treatment to those in the corrections system.

27  
28 In June of 2023 the MOUD program was able to quickly develop and launch trainings that meet the  
29 newly adopted MATE Act legislation which requires all practitioners to complete 8 hours of training  
30 to receive initial or renewal DEA license after June 27, 2023. Training videos that meet the 8 hour  
31 requirement can be accessed for FREE on the NMA website under Education and Training/MATE Act.

32  
33 The second program, called SafePrescribe, is a program focusing on education components that cover  
34 the prescription drug monitoring program (PDMP), co-prescribing (benzodiazepines and opioids),  
35 MOUD and naloxone. The education is provided by physicians and pharmacists that includes best-  
36 practices to ultimately reduce and prevent opioid overdoses and opioid related deaths.

37  
38 The third contract is related to the state licensure requirements regarding controlled substances. The  
39 NMA provides CMEs for the enduring video trainings that have been produced and cover the licensure  
40 requirements including the PDMP, naloxone, pain management, acute pain, difficult conversations,  
41 and tapering opioids and benzodiazepines. Those videos can be found on the NMA website under  
42 Education and CME.

43  
44 Lastly, the Integrated Health Program focuses on expanding access to care by aligning physicians with  
45 behavioral health providers to work collaboratively with patients to provide a continuum of care. This  
46 work is an expansion of the DHHS Division of Behavioral Health and their strategic focus on connecting  
47 patients to the most appropriate level of care for mental health and substance use disorder  
48 treatment.

**REPORT OF THE NEBRASKA MEDICAL FOUNDATION, INC.**

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The Nebraska Medical Foundation Board of Directors include:  
Michael Rapp, MD, Chair, Rick Blatny Sr., MD, Secretary, Bob Bleicher, MD, Abigail Drucker, MD, Todd Hlavaty, MD, Maria Michaelis, MD, Nila Novotny, MD, John Peters, MD, Les Spry, MD, Paul Esposito, MD, and Thomas Williams, MD.

**MISSION STATEMENT  
NEBRASKA MEDICAL FOUNDATION, INC.**

The mission of the Nebraska Medical Foundation (NMF) is to:

- Promote the wellness and health of the citizens of the State of Nebraska.
- Provide education on medical subjects to the citizens of the State of Nebraska.
- Award scholarships to deserving medical students.
- Fund research projects as deemed consistent with the purpose of the Foundation.
- Other activities that fall within the allowable activities of a 501(c)(3) Foundation.

As the NMF we function as your philanthropic arm of the Nebraska Medical Association.

On March 6, 2023, the Foundation Board met to review the scholarship applicants and grant applications. The Board approved the 2023 scholarships with a total of \$30,000 being awarded to 18 Creighton University School of Medicine and University of Nebraska College of Medicine student. The scholarships were awarded at a special banquet held on April 23, 2023, recognizing their great work leadership as medical students.

The Board has continued to support the NMA Physicians Leadership Academy by providing funding for programming expenses not covered by grants.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael F. Rapp, MD  
Nebraska Medical Foundation Chair



WAIVER OF NOTICE OF MEETING

The undersigned, being President of Nebraska Medical Association, the sole stockholder of Nebraska Medical Services Corporation, hereby waives notice of meeting of shareholders to be held in Lincoln, Nebraska on August 18, 2023.

NEBRASKA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
Sole Stockholder of Nebraska Medical Services Corporation

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Rougman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

By  
President, Nebraska Medical Association

## Report of AMA Delegation

The AMA House of Delegates (HOD) met for the 2023 Annual Meeting from June 9-14 in Chicago, Illinois. Once again, the NMA was very well represented with at least a dozen members attending and serving as Delegates or Alternate Delegates to the HOD. Numerous other NMA members attended the various AMA Sections including medical students and residents.

The Nebraska Delegation belongs to the North Central Medical Conference (NCMC) which includes the state delegations from Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa. The NCMC serves as a formal caucus in which we discuss issues and topics of importance with like-minded colleagues. At times, we use our collective voice to advocate for a viewpoint that represents our collective societies and our members. I have the pleasure of serving as Chair of NCMC this year and enjoy seeing the growth of our influence within the AMA.

After several years of holding virtual or special meetings due to the pandemic, the HOD is continues to make its way through a backlog of resolutions and reports, so the workload remains very high. This capacity however is expected to return to normal over the next meeting or two.

Key topics of advocacy, discussion, and debate included:

- [Fixing Medicare Physician Pay System](#) – the AMA has been fighting for Medicare physician payment reform for well over a decade. Despite this advocacy, the system remains on an unsustainable path. Patches and temporary fixes do not help physicians facing ongoing cuts to physician reimbursement which leaves many practices and patient access at risk. During the HOD meeting, the AMA further prioritized Medicare physician payment reform as an advocacy and legislative priority and will further increase its advocacy work in this area by launching a comprehensive, grassroots campaign.
- [Fighting Scope of Practice Creep](#) – the AMA continues its strong advocacy in combating the ever-increasing threat to increasing scope of practice by non-physicians. A new policy was established directing the AMA to advocate for legislation/regulation requiring emergency departments and services must be overseen by a physician. The HOD also strengthened existing policy calling for NP's, CRNA's and other to be licensed and regulated jointly by the state medical and nursing boards and will be studying the movement of non-physicians between specialties.
- [Telehealth](#) – as physicians in Nebraska are aware, telehealth has helped boost access to healthcare for historically underserved populations, especially those in rural areas. Despite these outcomes, extension of telehealth insurance coverage and payment may expire at the end of 2024 or be subject to outdated and burdensome regulations. The HOD adopted new policy to advocate for regulations that facilitate patients who have

the greatest need to have the technology and training necessary to maximize the health benefits of telehealth. This is in addition to already existing policy that guides the AMA's advocacy efforts.

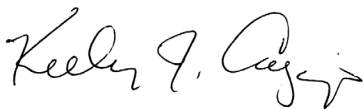
These are only a few of the hundreds of reports and resolutions that were discussed at the AMA Annual Meeting. Further highlights can be found on the AMA website or using this link: [Highlights from the 2023 AMA Annual Meeting](#) Members of the AMA can search or all policies of the AMA using the [AMA Policy Finder](#) as well.

At the Annual Meeting, Jesse Ehrenfeld, MD, MPH was inaugurated as AMA President. Dr. Ehrenfeld, the first openly gay person to hold the office of AMA President, is a practicing anesthesiologist, senior associate dean, and tenured professor of anesthesiology at the Medical College of Wisconsin where he leads the largest statewide health philanthropy, the Advancing Healthier Wisconsin Endowment. Bruce Scott, MD, an otolaryngologist from Kentucky, was selected as President-Elect.

I was fortunate to have been re-elected to the AMA Council on Medical Education for a second four-year term and greatly appreciate the support of the NMA and its members in endorsing my campaign. I want to specifically give my appreciation for Juli Rosso, an NMA staff member, who helped coordinate numerous interviews and keep me on track throughout the election process.

The 2023 Interim Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates is scheduled for November 10-14 in National Harbor, Maryland.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Kelly Caverzagie, MD  
Chair, Nebraska Delegation to the AMA

## UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE NMA – 9/23

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the curriculum, research and patient care activities decreased over the course of the year throughout the year. We were very pleased that we were able to hold the annual White Coat ceremony in-person at the Orpheum utilizing COVID-19 screening and masking procedures. In addition, Match Day was in-person at the Scott Conference Center.

The College's Admissions Committee this year received over 2,050 applications. 378 candidates were interviewed in order to select the entering Class of 2027. Of the 134 admitted students, this year 77% are Nebraska residents and this year 55% are women. The class brings an average entering GPA of 3.87, and average MCAT score is 512. In August, they will once again join other continuing UNMC students to begin a curriculum that emphasizes patient-centered, evidence-based high value care. This includes increasing inter-professional education experiences.

The College graduated 116 students in May of 2023 at Baxter Arena. Convocation and Hooding was held at the Holland Performing Arts Center. As with past classes, primary care remained the largest career choice for residency with 50 percent of the class pursuing residency training in one of the primary care disciplines (family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, and pediatrics). 40% of students will be remaining in Nebraska for their first year of residency training.

Recruitment for the incoming class of medical students, as well as residents and fellows was held virtually again during the Fall/Winter of 2022-23. The medical school admissions process will remain virtual for the coming year. For 2023-2024, residency and fellowship programs are encouraged to follow national society guidelines regarding virtual vs in person recruitment activities. Equity among applicants is an important consideration. This continues to be a learning experience for both applicants and programs that overall has been deemed a national success.

July 1, 2023, saw 218 new UNMC house officers join our continuing house staff: 42 percent are women and 22 percent graduated from our College of Medicine. There are 715 residents and fellows total in all years with 233 positions in primary care. The total number of ACGME-accredited programs at UNMC is 74, as well as the ADA accredited oral surgery program. UNMC also has 6 non-ACGME accredited specialty training programs.

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has approved one new residency program, Plastic Surgery – integrated program. We are awaiting ACGME accreditation for Pediatric Urology. In the coming academic years, we plan to start new programs in Neuro Critical Care, Dermatopathology, Pediatric Dermatology, Mohs Surgery, Health Security, Laboratory Genetics, Transfusion Medicine, Colorectal Surgery and Surgical Oncology. We also plan for several expansions to existing accredited programs.

In support of this strategic graduate medical education growth UNMC and Nebraska Medicine leaders also have finalized the intergovernmental transfer of funds for graduate medical education, which will result in additional federal dollars annually being available for new GME positions in the areas mentioned above as well as rural and women's health, psychiatry and behavioral health.

Design review for the health facility on the University of Nebraska at Kearney campus is on schedule, with plans for a formal groundbreaking ceremony being developed for some time in September. The

anticipated matriculation date the first class of the medical school's regional campus is September of 2026

UNMC has secured the \$15 million match for the pancreatic cancer center project, which is led by Sunil Hingorani, MD, PhD.

As UNMC continues toward a collaborative and integrative approach to health care delivery that also supports our educational and research missions with our hospital partners the College remains dedicated to preparing students to practice medicine as part of patient-centered, team-based care, and to providing superbly trained health care professionals and biomedical researchers for the State of Nebraska. We are indebted to our volunteer faculty who contribute immensely to student education. We could not provide the outstanding range of educational experiences and opportunities without their help.

Respectfully submitted,

Bradley Britigan, MD  
Dean, University of Nebraska College of Medicine

## UNMC AMA Student Chapter Report

2022-2023 Academic Year

The 2022-2023 academic year was once again a full year for the UNMC student chapter of the American Medical Association. In addition to their demanding schedules in the hospital, studying, and sitting for exams, executive members of the board were busy planning events to enrich the involvement of our campus in local and national advocacy, philanthropy, and networking. The president of the UNMC AMA chapter this year was Aubree Ford, M4, who skillfully organized the rest of the group to ensure its success and productivity.

On a national level, several students held leadership positions and joined standing committees within the AMA. In November of 2022, Nicholas Bohannon, M3, and Wyatt Lanik, M2, attended the AMA interim meeting in Honolulu. Furthermore, several members of the chapter attended the AMA Annual Medical Student Section (MSS) meeting held in Chicago, IL in June. Those that were unable to attend in person were fortunately able to participate virtually.

On the campus level, in addition to regular recruitment events hosted by recruitment chairs Sarah Mullen, M3, and Kate Vanderzwaag, M3, an AMA resolution writing workshop was held in February with open forum ideas including “ChatGPT AI in Science Publications” and “Removing Race from Spirometry Algorithms”. The resolution on AI as a threat to integrity of scientific publications will go before the AMA House of Delegates. One of the largest events held was the American Medical Association Residency Symposium. Over the last few years, this has been held virtually due to the pandemic. In order to continue to give students a flexible option for participation while still getting the benefits of in-person networking, the meeting was held using a hybrid format this year, with an online option for students who could not be present in person. Meetings to plan this event, which occurred in April, began in the late fall. There was a team of 14 students in total who assisted in coordinating the event. Aubree Ford, M4, and Nicholas Bohannon, M3 were co-chairs for the event. Elena Einspahr, M3; Kaitlyn Nein, M1; and Lauren Ziegenbein, M2 were committee leads. Jennifer Libov, M3; Hannah Nelson, M4; Alexis Rasmussen, M1; Samuel Frankel, M3; Danielle Dircks, M2; Keland Pothoff, M1; and Sarah Maki, M2 were committee members. The funding and hospitality committee applied for funds to support the event and organized details surrounding amenities and accommodations of the event. The speakers and small groups committee recruited and communicated details with speakers of the event. The registrations and publications committee put together the 100+ page booklet full of match data and tips for application strategies and formatted the website for hybrid attendees. Speakers included Dr. Jeffery Gold, Dr. Daniel Rosenquist, and the president elect of the AMA, Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld.

Special thanks to the following physicians not already mentioned for generously giving their time to participate in the residency symposium, your time is greatly appreciated and the advice you give is invaluable to students who attend!

**Dr. Allison Ashford**

**Dr. Amy Dreesen**

**Dr. Amy Hellman**

**Dr. Andrea Dutoit**

**Dr. Ashley Hein**

**Dr. Dalton Nelson**

**Dr. David Wagner**

**Dr. Elizabeth Bradford Bell**

**Dr. Geoffrey Talmon**

**Dr. Jason Cook**

**Dr. John McClain**

Dr. Jonathan Thompson

Dr. Joseph McBride

Dr. JP Haas

Dr. Kimberly Jarzynka

Dr. Laura Cudzilo-Kelsey

Dr. Lisa Sieckowski

Dr. Mackenzie Keintz

Dr. Matthew Mormino

Dr. Megan Arthur

**Dr. Michael Baine**

Dr. Michael Weaver

Dr. Scott Lauer

Dr. Shannon Wong

Dr. Tammy Wichman

Dr. Thomas Auen

Dr. Tiffany Tanner

Dr. Wendy Grant

In other local chapter activity, the ever-popular Health Policy Network organized through the NMA by Quinn Nelson, M2, hosted two “Dine & Debate” events. In October, Dr. Sean Figy hosted “Consumer/Patient Rights to Genomic Data Generated by Private Companies”. In January, Dr. Alena Balasanova hosted “Firearms and Mental

Health: Is There A Connection?”. We are so thankful to our hosts, these dinners are always such a special opportunity to connect and better understand important topics at the intersection of ethics, politics, and medicine from the perspective of experienced clinicians. We strongly encourage any other NMA members local to Omaha to reach out if they are interested in joining or hosting a dinner, especially if there is a topic they would like to see discussed that is near and dear to them. Recruitment chairs and M1 representatives Natalia Batchenkenova, Katelyn Nein, Keland Potthoff, Keegan Schuchart, and Priya Verbik assisted in planning several “Pints & Policy” events for networking with Creighton AMA students. In addition, philanthropy chairs Kayley Anderson, M2, Sarah Mullen, M3, and Katie Vanderzwaag M3, planned events with Habitat for Humanity, Heartland Family services, and the MUNA box project to get AMA student members involved in the community, as well as a book exchange to help students connect. NMA representatives Sam Frankel, M2, and Pranita Devaraju, M2, and MOMS representative Danielle Dircks, M2, kept the chapter up to date on the goings-on in local medical policy. Tony Le, M3, diligently managed funding for all these events and submitted applications for additional funds as Treasurer & Fundraising chair.

Overall, 2022-2023 was a rewarding year for the UNMC AMA student chapter. A new board was recently elected for the 2023-2024 year who plan to continue the exemplary service, leadership and advocacy that has been displayed this last year. Nicholas Bohannon, incoming M4, was elected the next chapter president. The past and future achievements of this chapter would not be possible without the support of local and national medical organizations, including the Nebraska Medical Association and the Metro Omaha Medical Society, in addition to the support of local physicians and partners. We thank all who have been involved and will continue to be involved in years to come.

Danielle Dircks, M3 and Elena Einspahr, M4  
2023-2024 UNMC NMA Chapter Delegates

## NMA Creighton Update

### Creighton University School of Medicine

#### Vision

"United by our Jesuit, Catholic identity, we transform learners into exceptional health care professionals and scientists who are leaders in advancing medicine, health and well-being."

#### Student Affairs and Admission

More than 6,200 prospective students applied to Creighton's medical school and 252 were selected as members of the class of 2027. There are 132 first-year medical students in Omaha and 120 in Phoenix, where 20 spots were added this year, resulting in a record-breaking class size. 10% of the class already has an advanced degree and 15% are first generation students. They come from 31 states and Canada and speak 28 different languages.

In March 2023, Omaha and Phoenix students matched with residencies in 20 specialties across 30 states. **Of the 165 students who participated, 92% matched into their number one specialty.**

Of the students matching:

- The most popular specialties were internal medicine (31), pediatrics (25), diagnostic radiology (16) and psychiatry (15).
- These were followed by general surgery (14), obstetrics and gynecology (13), family medicine (9), emergency medicine (7), neurology (7), pathology (4), anesthesiology (3), physical medicine and rehabilitation (3), plastic surgery (3), urology (3), medicine-pediatrics (2), ophthalmology (2), otolaryngology (2), orthopedic surgery (2), dermatology (1) and thoracic surgery (1).
- Creighton's graduates will take their places across 30 states, including Arizona (22), California (17), Nebraska (11), Texas (11), Wisconsin (10), Illinois (10), Missouri (8), Ohio (8), Colorado (7) and Minnesota (7).

Some of the medical institutions that granted residencies to Creighton graduates are the Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education, Northwestern, the Cleveland Clinic, Rush, Penn, Vanderbilt, University of Chicago, Barrow Neurological Institute, University of California-San Francisco, University of California-Los Angeles, Duke and Johns Hopkins.

#### Programs

The physician assistant program welcomes the inaugural class in Phoenix for a total of 64 students between the Omaha and Phoenix campuses.

#### Research

- Waddah Al-Refaie, MD, FACS, Creighton's chair of the Department of Surgery, is co-leading a study with MedStar Health Research Institute and Georgetown University School of Medicine aimed at improving post-operative care, especially in minority patients through the use artificial intelligence and related technologies.
- Husband-and-wife researchers Tim Simeone, PhD, and Kristina Simeone, PhD, from the Creighton University School of Medicine's Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience, received a \$1.5M grant from the National Institutes of Health and its National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke to study sudden unexplained death in epilepsy (SUDEP).



- Jee-Yeon Hwang, PhD, assistant professor in Creighton University's Department of Pharmacology and Neuroscience, is conducting research designed to create new therapies to address stroke. This research received a two-year, \$145,000 grant from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences, a division of the National Institutes of Health.

### **A New Home for the School of Medicine in Omaha**

This month, the CL & Rachel Werner Center will open. As the new home for the health sciences, the facility will bring together medical, nursing, physician assistant, occupational therapy, physical therapy, pharmacy, behavioral health students for lectures, simulations and casual interactions in lounge spaces. The building is 135,000 square feet, cost \$75 million to complete and will provide space for about 5,900 students, faculty and staff each year.

3,500 students are enrolled in professional health sciences programs at Creighton. The Center will take Creighton's commitment to interprofessional education to the next level through embracing team-based care and drawing on all disciplines to treat the whole person.

The 2022-2023 year for Creighton’s AMA chapter was filled with development, expansion, and fellowship. The executive board met monthly to plan events for the chapter. The following is a list of these events:

**National**

AMA-MSS Interim Meeting 2022— Honolulu, Hawaii: Our AMA representative, alternate delegate, and our co-president attended the voting session. We prepared a resolution for the AMA-MSS interim. This resolution addressed the Introduction of Pre-discharge Individualized Fall Risk Assessments for Older Adults. The resolution was not adopted.

AMA- MSS Annual 2023 - Chicago, Illinois. Our co-president attended the voting session.

**State**

NMA Annual Legislative Breakfast: Our students joined the NMA at the Annual Physician Advocacy Breakfast in Lincoln. It was a great opportunity to discuss ongoing topics regarding healthcare policy in our state.

NMA Board of Directors Meeting and Annual Membership Meeting 2022: Our NMA alternate delegate attended the Board of Directors Meeting. Our NMA alternate- delegate and some students of our chapter defended a prepared resolution in cooperation with the Metro Omaha Medical Society (MOMS) and Nebraska Medical Association (NMA) for the NMA Annual Membership Meeting. The resolution advocated for improved access to treatment for patients with Hepatitis C through the removal of *Cannabis* from Nebraska’s sobriety restrictions. This resolution was approved by members of both MOMS and NMA.

**Chapter**

Pints and Policy: We held “Pints and Policy” nights that allowed students from both Creighton and UNMC to gather and talk about different healthcare-related policies on the Nebraska and National levels.

Introductory Meeting: We hosted an introduction meeting for medical students at CUSOM who are interested in joining the AMA and NMA.

Anti-Racist Student Advisory Council (ARSAC): Two representatives were selected to represent the AMA on the ARSAC board. Our students engaged in projects to increase diversity in the SOM and to foster a welcoming culture.

Resolution Workshops: We held various resolution workshops throughout the spring semester. The experience of brainstorming resolution ideas, researching, and writing were agreed by all to be an extremely valuable and necessary insight into the process of resolutions.

MOMS Representative: We created a chair position to represent Creighton’s students in MOMS.

Outreach Chair: We created an Outreach Chair position to collaborate with other organizations in Creighton.

Elections: We will be having elections at the beginning of the Fall semester.

Physician Seminars: We will be inviting AMA and NMA physician members to speak to medical students about healthcare and policy-related concerns. This will not only bolster student education but also provide a networking opportunity for students.

We will continue to work with UNMC students to have shared collaboration on events and resolutions.

Creighton’s AMA chapter thanks the NMA for their continued support and is looking forward to the upcoming year.

Sincerely,

Marcos González Pérez

NMA Representative Creighton University School of Medicine

## **NMA Legislative Committee**

Jordan Warchol, MD, MPH, FACEP - Chair

As in previous years, the NMA Legislative Committee played an important role in shaping the NMA's advocacy during the 2023 session by providing input on legislative proposals and making recommendations to the Board of Directors regarding the NMA's position on bills affecting physicians, patients, and access to care. The Legislative Committee met virtually for three hours on January 19 to discuss dozens of introduced bills and formulate recommendations to inform NMA positions, testimony, and amendment proposals. Of the 820 bills introduced, NMA weighed in on more than 50 and monitored nearly 100 legislative proposals.

Going into the 2023 legislative session, it was clear that physicians would be at the center of many of the most controversial issues of the session, particularly with the introduction of LB626, a six-week abortion ban, and LB574, a prohibition on gender-affirming care for minors. The Legislative Committee deliberated thoughtfully over both bills and recommended NMA oppose LB626 and LB574 due to their interference in the physician-patient relationship and their risk to the health and lives of patients.

The advancement of LB574 on a split vote by the Health and Human Services Committee prompted Senator Machaela Cavanaugh to make good on her promise to filibuster every bill if such a measure was advanced. Ultimately, the session-long filibuster failed to stop LB574, which was amended to include restrictions on abortion at 12 weeks gestational age, effective immediately, as well as restrictions on gender-affirming care for minors, effective October 1, 2023. Under LB574 as amended, the State's Chief Medical Officer is charged with promulgating rules and regulations under which some nonsurgical gender-affirming care may be provided to minors.

While the persistent filibuster slowed legislative progress in the early days of the session, legislators eventually found ways to pass a significant amount of legislation by packaging individual bills into omnibus legislation. At first glance, only 33 bills were passed into law, but these packages contained provisions of 291 introduced bills, which is on par with other recent 90-day sessions.

Included in the bills signed into law this session were several measures championed by the NMA:

- **Excess Liability Fund** - LB68, which will help sustain Nebraska's Excess Liability Fund, passed as part of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance omnibus package, LB92. The bill will increase revenue and reduce risk to the fund by requiring fund participants to carry liability coverage in the amount of \$800,000 per occurrence with a \$3 million annual aggregate for policies renewing on or after January 1, 2025.
- **Physician Wellness** - LB286, which will create confidentiality protections for the physician wellness program LifeBridge Nebraska, passed as part of LB227. The bill will allow physicians to use the LifeBridge coaching services without fear of stigma or other repercussions by providing that participation in the program is confidential and not subject to discovery, subpoena, or any reporting requirement to DHHS unless there is a danger to the public health and safety by the individual's continued practice of medicine. Additionally, the bill provides that no participant in LifeBridge can be required to disclose their participation in the program.
- **Postpartum Medicaid** - LB419, which will extend postpartum Medicaid coverage, was amended into the omnibus Health and Human Services Committee bill, LB227. The bill requires the Nebraska

Department of Health and Human Services to seek federal approval to extend pregnancy-related Medicaid eligibility to at least six months postpartum.

Other NMA priorities that passed into law in the 2023 session include LB256, to require private market insurance to cover telehealth services at the same rate of reimbursement as in-person services; LB145, to expand insurance coverage for breast cancer screening; LB383, to expand coverage for colorectal cancer screening; and LB610, to provide funding to career and technical education organizations, including those for future health professionals.

Legislation introduced, but not passed, in the 2023 session will carry over to the 2024 session, including issues on which the NMA will continue to engage over the interim and into next session. Conversations around prior authorization reform are ongoing after LB210, a “gold card” bill, failed to advance from the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. Likewise, efforts to secure a more significant increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates will continue, after Governor Pillen line-item vetoed \$14.8 million from the budget, which had been intended to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates beyond the three percent increase which takes effect in July 2023.

The Legislative Committee met virtually on June 20 to reflect on the 2023 session and discuss interim developments. The committee will meet once more this year, in December 2023, to discuss anticipated legislation and NMA priorities, as well as in January 2024 to provide input for the 2024 session.

**Thanks to the following for testifying on behalf of the NMA:**

Ann Anderson Berry, MD, PhD

Alan Thorson, MD

Melvin Churchill, MD

John Trapp, MD

John Massey, MD

Kathryn Wildy, MD

Leslie Spry, MD

David Buntain, JD

Daniel Rosenquist, MD

David Ernst, JD

*Additional thanks to the many members who provided physician input and medical expertise on the dozens of health care-related bills introduced this session, especially the members of the NMA Legislative Committee. Your guidance is essential to the NMA’s advocacy work.*



## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2023**

### **Slate of Candidates for the 2023-2024 Board of Directors**

President	John Trapp, MD, Lincoln, Endorsed by LCMS
President-Elect	David Ingvoldstad, MD, Omaha, Endorsed by MOMS
At-Large Directors (2 positions to fill)	Matthew Appenzeller, MD, Omaha Kaitlyn Brittan, MD, Omaha Elizabeth Constance, MD, Omaha Renee Engler, MD, North Platte Daphne Ly, MD, Omaha Lindsey Nelson, MD, Henderson Tod Voss, MD, Pierce Brandon Webb, MD, Lincoln
LCMS At-Large Directors (1 position to fill)	Erica Peterson, MD, Endorsed by LCMS
MOMS At-Large Directors (1 position to fill)	Maria Michaelis, MD, Endorsed by MOMS

## NMPAC: Stronger Because of You!

As we saw in this year's legislative session, Nebraska legislators make important decisions impacting your ability to practice medicine and how your patients are cared for. The NMA believes that all physicians must play an active role in the development of health care policy as part of our professional responsibility.

Health care and related issues are often at the top of the agenda for legislators, but few of them have the deep understanding of health care that we have as physicians. The NMA represents the physician and patient voice at the Nebraska Legislature, with the help of the nonpartisan Nebraska Medical Political Action Committee, NMPAC. NMPAC is the only PAC in Nebraska that represents the unified voice of medicine.

A strong PAC is critical to establishing and maintaining a legislative climate that is favorable to physicians and patients. Your contributions to NMPAC substantially enhance the NMA's ability to advocate effectively, develop positive relationships with legislators, and allow physicians to retain a strong voice in Nebraska politics.

NMPAC is your opportunity as an NMA member to support candidates running for election who have proven to be a friend of medicine and who make physicians and patients their top priority. Each election cycle, the NMA staff, along with the NMPAC Chair, participate in candidate forums to interview legislative candidates to learn about their positions on health care issues and identify those who align with the mission of the NMA. The NMPAC Board then carefully reviews all candidates to understand their philosophy and positions on medical issues. If you want to take a more active role in determining PAC endorsements and increasing the NMA's voice in the legislature, please look for information in the coming year about joining the NMPAC board.

Although this is an off year, supporting NMPAC now is essential to building a foundation for the 2024 election cycle. Make a strong statement about issues that are important to you and join NMPAC. Your contribution can be made online at [www.nebmed.org/nmpac](http://www.nebmed.org/nmpac). You now have the convenience of scheduling your contributions monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. Every dollar of your contribution stays in Nebraska and is used to further the advocacy efforts of the NMA.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions regarding PAC membership, the PAC endorsement process, or how to become more involved.

Join me in making the voice of medicine in Nebraska even stronger!



**WORKS** to ensure medicine-friendly candidates win.

**FIGHTS** to safeguard physicians from lawsuit abuse.

**PROTECTS** patients from inappropriate scope expansions.

**DONATE: [nebmed.org/nmpac](http://nebmed.org/nmpac)**

NECROLOGY 8/2022 – 8/2023

Don Bell, MD – Vascular Surgery (Omaha)

Richard ‘Dick’ Bergstrom, MD – Orthopedic Surgery (Omaha)

Robert Brown, MD – Family Medicine (Omaha)

H. Jeffrey Deeths, MD – Urology (Omaha)

William ‘Bill’ Fleming, MD, FACC – Thoracic Surgery (Omaha)

Robert Goynes, MD – Internal Medicine (Ooltewah, TN)

William ‘Bill’ Heusel, MD - Family Medicine (Fremont)

Matthew Jansen, MD - General Surgery (Sidney)

Bernard Kratochvil, MD - Orthopedic Surgery (Omaha)

Roger Massie, MD – Family Medicine (Lincoln)

Dennis ‘Greg’ O’Leary, MD – General Surgery (Omaha)

Ronald Peterson, MD - Family Medicine (Omaha)

James Quinn, MD – Obstetrics & Gynecology (Omaha)

Robert Rasmussen, MD – Family Medicine (Rapid City, SD)

Gerald Ries, MD – Orthopedic Surgery (Omaha)

Eugene Schwenke, MD – Emergency Medicine (Cornelius, NC)

Judith Stern, MD – Internal Medicine (Fort Myers, FL)

Robert Sueper, MD, FCAP – Pathology (Omaha)

Dean Wampler, MD – Internal Medicine (Omaha)

Robert Wington, MD – Internal Medicine (Omaha)

# **NMA Resolution Committee Report on 2023 Resolutions**

## **Committee Members**

Kelly Caverzagie, MD, FACP, FHM, Chair

Rachel Blake, MD, FAAFP

Gerald Luckey, MD

Michael Visenio, MD, MPH

Jordan Warchol, MD, MPH, FACEP



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RESOLUTION #1 - STANDARD TIME THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

RESOLVED, That the Nebraska Medical Association fully supports elimination of seasonal time changes and the establishment of permanent standard time.

**RECOMMENDATION A:**

Resolution #1 be amended by deletion to read as follows:

**RESOLVED, That the Nebraska Medical Association fully supports elimination of seasonal time changes and the establishment of permanent standard time.**

**RECOMMENDATION B:**

Resolution #1 be adopted as amended.

**Resolution Committee Rationale**

The comments submitted via the online forum uniformly supported the elimination of seasonal time changes, with varying support for year-round Standard Time as opposed to year-round Daylight Savings Time. The Resolution Committee acknowledges that current evidence favors the adoption of year-round Standard Time, however, the Committee suggests amending the Resolve clause to provide flexibility while reflecting the membership’s broad support for the elimination of seasonal time changes. An additional minor amendment strikes the word “fully” to align Resolution #1 with the verbiage of other NMA resolutions; therefore, the Resolution Committee recommends that Resolution #1 be adopted as amended.

1 RESOLUTION #2 - REEXAMINING MANDATORY TRAINING OR EDUCATION  
2

3 RESOLVED, That the Nebraska Medical Association support efforts of the American Medical  
4 Association to require that these principles be employed on a national level.  
5

6 **RECOMMENDATION A:**  
7

8 **Alternate Resolution #2 be adopted in lieu of Resolution #2:**

9 **RESOLVED, That the Nebraska Medical Association oppose federal requirements for**  
10 **mandatory education or training that is tied to physician licensure.**  
11

12 **Resolution Committee Rationale**

13 The comments submitted via the online forum overwhelmingly support limiting government  
14 involvement in mandatory education and training for physicians. Many of the comments in  
15 support state that the profession should be self-governing in the arena of education and training  
16 requirements. The alternate Resolve clause proposed above provides completeness to the Resolve  
17 clause, allowing it to stand alone as NMA policy, and reflects the membership's opposition to  
18 education and training mandates; therefore, the Resolution Committee recommends adopting the  
19 alternate Resolve clause proposed above.

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RESOLUTION #3 - ORACLE CERNER VA ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD

RESOLVED, That the Nebraska Medical Association support termination of the Veterans Health Administration Oracle Cerner program and retain the VHA's current electronic health record CPRS/VistA with improved interoperability, and

RESOLVED, That the Nebraska Medical Association request the American Medical Association to also support such action.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**Resolution #3 be not adopted.**

**Resolution Committee Rationale**

Resolution #3 received little input via the online comment forum. The Resolution Committee does not support the adoption of Resolution #3, believing it would set a potentially problematic precedent for the Nebraska Medical Association to intrude on the administrative business decisions of health systems or to take sides on contractual matters between health systems and their vendors; therefore, the Resolution Committee recommends that Resolution #3 be not adopted.

1 RESOLUTION #4 - EXEMPTING FETAL ABNORMALITIES FROM ABORTION BAN  
2

3 RESOLVED, That the Nebraska Medical Association recommend an exception to allow termination  
4 of a pregnancy due to congenital fetal anomalies and genetic diseases to any law restricting  
5 abortion.

6  
7 **RECOMMENDATION A:**

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9 **Resolution #4 be amended by addition and deletion to read as follows:**

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11 **RESOLVED, That the Nebraska Medical Association ~~recommend~~ support exceptions to allow**  
12 **termination of a pregnancy due to congenital fetal anomalies and genetic diseases to any law**  
13 **restricting abortion.**

14  
15 **RECOMMENDATION B:**

16  
17 **Resolution #4 be adopted as amended.**

18  
19 **Resolution Committee Rationale**

20 Resolution #4 received numerous comments in the online forum, the vast majority of which were  
21 in support. Comments in support noted the significant risks to maternal health associated with  
22 continuing to carry a fetus with congenital anomalies or genetic conditions which are not  
23 compatible with life, or which cause severe long-term complications resulting in high levels of  
24 morbidity and mortality. These comments strongly favored allowing such patients to choose  
25 between terminating the pregnancy or carrying the pregnancy in accordance with their medical  
26 needs and personal or religious beliefs.

27  
28 The Resolution Committee acknowledges the comments in opposition and those seeking  
29 additional clarification between anomalies and genetic diseases which are not compatible with  
30 life of the infant after birth and those which cause severe long-term complications for the fetus  
31 resulting in high levels of morbidity and mortality. However, the Resolution Committee believes  
32 the Resolve clause as originally submitted provides necessary flexibility to allow physicians to  
33 counsel patients through such medically complex pregnancies.

34  
35 The minor amendments to the Resolve clause proposed by the Resolution Committee (1)  
36 strengthen Resolution #4 by replacing the word "recommend" with the word "support" and (2)  
37 acknowledge that multiple statutory exceptions may be proposed and/or be required to address  
38 this issue; therefore, the Resolution Committee recommends that Resolution #4 be adopted as  
39 amended.

1 RESOLUTION #5 - AMEND THE LET THEM GROW ACT  
2 AND THE PREBORN CHILD PROTECTION ACT

3  
4 RESOLVED, That the Nebraska Medical Association recommends rescinding portions of the Let  
5 Them Grow Act and The Preborn Child Protection Act which threaten criminal penalties and/or  
6 license revocation as it will add to shortage of physicians providing health care in Nebraska.

7  
8 **RECOMMENDATION A:**

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10 **Alternate Resolution #5 be adopted in lieu of Resolution #5:**

11  
12 **RESOLVED, That the Nebraska Medical Association opposes laws which impose criminal**  
13 **penalties and licensure revocation for providing treatment in accordance with medically**  
14 **accepted standards of care.**

15  
16 **RECOMMENDATION B:**

17  
18 **The title of Resolution #5 be changed to read as follows:**

19  
20 **OPPOSE CRIMINAL PENALTIES AND LICENSURE REVOCATION**  
21 **FOR PROVIDING MEDICALLY ACCEPTED STANDARD OF CARE**

22  
23 **Resolution Committee Rationale**

24 Resolution #5 received numerous comments in the online forum, with preponderance of the  
25 comments in support. Comments in support generally focused on the need to keep government  
26 out the physician-patient relationship and the need to support and defend physicians with  
27 specialized expertise in providing treatment in accordance with evidence-based and medically  
28 accepted standards of care. Comments in opposition suggested that the Nebraska Medical  
29 Association should not take a position on abortion or gender-affirming care because not all  
30 members agree on these issues.

31  
32 The Committee acknowledges that members have varied views on abortion, gender-affirming  
33 care, and other topics, however, the Committee agrees with the many comments which request  
34 that the organization should take a stand to defend physicians from criminal penalties and  
35 licensure revocation when they are practicing according to medically accepted standards of care.  
36 Accordingly, the Committee recommends the Resolve clause be amended as set forth above to  
37 reflect this principle and to frame it in such a way that is applicable not only to the already passed  
38 Let Them Grow Act and the Preborn Child Protection Act, but also to any future attempts to  
39 criminalize or restrict the practice of evidence-based medicine.

40  
41 The Committee also acknowledges the comments which suggest it is not appropriate for the NMA  
42 to adopt a resolution stating that such penalties will add to the shortage of physicians providing  
43 health care in Nebraska without concrete data to support such a statement. The Committee  
44 believes such a statement is not necessary to the Resolve clause; therefore, the Resolution  
45 Committee recommends adopting the alternate Resolve clause proposed above.