

An Open Letter to the AMSA Community

In the wake of last week's historic Supreme Court decision on health care reform, I think it is important to reiterate and clarify [the American Medical Student Association's position on health care reform and the Supreme Court's decision last week](#).

Health care reform and the Affordable Care Act are undoubtedly deeply divided issues in the medical community. While respecting the valuable perspective of veteran physicians, it is critical that we, as physicians-in-training, respectfully engage in the ongoing national dialogue even if we do not always agree with each other. Access to high quality, affordable health care coverage in this country ought not be a political question. Politicking with American lives might be an unfortunate reality but also not an ideal we should strive for or embrace.

AMSA's position on health care reform is based on resolutions approved by [our House of Delegates \(HOD\)](#) at our Annual Convention. These resolutions are incorporated into [our Preamble, Purposes and Principles \(PPP\)](#), and this document determines what position AMSA takes on issues. Any AMSA member can submit a resolution for consideration. Thus, AMSA seeks to truly represent its members on Capitol Hill and in the media. If you believe that AMSA should take a particular stance on an issue, I encourage you to write a resolution. Questions about the 2013 House of Delegates can be directed to Nida Degesys, AMSA's Vice President of Internal Affairs, at vpia@amsa.org.

In addition to the specific policy positions outlined in our PPP, AMSA has four overarching strategic aspirations:

- Quality, Affordable Health Care for All
- Global Health Equity
- Enriching Medicine Through Diversity
- Professional Integrity, Development and Student Well-Being

Each of our strategic aspirations is of equal importance and priority within AMSA.

Approximately twenty months ago, several AMSA leaders including AMSA's Health Care for All Co-Chairs Kristin Huntoon and Richard Bruno conducted [a study of medical student attitudes on the ACA that was published in PLoS ONE](#). Our study sample included medical students (regardless of AMSA membership) at ten medical schools. We found medical students overwhelmingly recognize the need for reform with approximately 95% of respondents reporting reform is needed. Only 15% of respondents indicate support for repealing the Affordable Care Act.

It is truly an honor to serve as your national president during this historic time. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns at pres@amsa.org.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Wiley