

OKLAHOMA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ADOPTED AS AMENDED
Emergency Resolution 10:
A-2008

Introduced by: Kent King, MD, Lee Schoeffler, MD, S. A. Dean Drooby, M.D.
Jay Gregory, MD
Subject: Healthcare Reform in the U.S.

1 **WHEREAS**, The healthcare system in the United States is fundamentally the most advanced in
2 the world, and

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4 **WHEREAS**, The cost of healthcare in the U.S. is rising due to many factors including but not
5 limited to an increasingly aging population which is a direct sign of better care and outcomes by
6 physicians and nurses, more readily available laboratory and imaging testing, newer
7 pharmacological therapies for acute, chronic and malignant diseases, an out of control expensive
8 defensive malpractice system which does not serve the patient’s best interests, rising physician
9 educational and practice expenses, increasingly costly to comply with governmental regulations,
10 unfunded procedure mandates and the shifting of costs for reporting, claim-filing and non-
11 reimbursable services that physicians are required to provide, and

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13 **WHEREAS**, approximately 47 million U.S. citizens are uninsured, some by choice and some for
14 financial reasons both of which unfairly increase the cost of care to those who choose to buy
15 insurance or to employers who attempt to provide it, and

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17 **WHEREAS**, current governmental healthcare programs (Medicare, Medicaid, and Military) all
18 fail to adequately reimburse providers for their services, which leads to loss of access to medical
19 care and severe and unreasonable cost-shifting to those patients with private insurance and sky-
20 rocketing premiums, and

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22 **WHEREAS**, governmental regulation serves only to ultimately decrease timely and quality
23 access to medical care, and

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25 **WHEREAS**, current healthcare policies and reimbursements do not incentivize the promotion of
26 prevention by the physician OR encourage healthy life-styles by the patient, and

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28 **WHEREAS**, physicians receive less than 16% of the total expenditures for healthcare in the U.S.,
29 despite shouldering the medical and legal responsibility for the vast majority of patients;
30 therefore, be it

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32 **RESOLVED**, that the Oklahoma State Medical Association supports the development and
33 implementation of comprehensive health system reform that provides for universally available
34 and affordable health insurance policy choices to our citizens, encouraging a healthier nation
35 through the application of preventive medicine practices, access by patients to care, by
36 reimbursing physicians appropriately for their services, and be it further

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38 **RESOLVED**, that the Oklahoma State Medical Association supports our fellow colleague and
39 U.S. Senator, Dr. Tom Coburn, M.D., from Muskogee, Oklahoma in his legislative efforts to
40 reform the US healthcare system.