



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OPPOSES HR 3200**

LOS ANGELES, October 20, 2009 – The Los Angeles County Medical Association (LACMA) has announced that it is opposed to the health care reform legislation HR 3200 *as written*. A special committee dedicated itself to reviewing every page of the bill, discussing and analyzing all reform items included in it. The assembled LACMA Board of Directors then accepted the committee's report and voted to oppose HR 3200.

"While there were many positive reforms in the bill, we felt that the negatives were so onerous that we could not whole-heartedly support the bill as written," says Robert Bitonte, MD, president of LACMA. "It is important to note, however, that should the portions we oppose change we would conduct a new study of the bill."

"LACMA has helped shape local, state and national health care policy since 1871," adds Sean O'Brien, Interim Executive Director for LACMA. "With this new study and recommendation, we are continuing the thoughtful work of our predecessors."

The committee's report found that HR 3200 does not make quality health care more affordable or accessible. Instead, they found that the bill obstructs patient rights in choosing their doctor and their care. Further, they found that the bill does not protect patients' privacy or their right to privately contract with a physician, and it impedes the sacred doctor-patient relationship. Finally, the committee found that the bill increases government mandates and regulations that complicate a physician's ability to care for their patients.

### **About LACMA**

The Los Angeles County Medical Association is a professional association representing physicians from every medical specialty and practice setting as well as medical students, interns and residents. For more than 100 years, LACMA has been at the forefront of medicine, assuring that its members are represented in the areas of public policy, government relations and community relations. Through its advocacy efforts in both Los Angeles County and with the statewide California Medical Association, physician leaders and staff strive toward a common goal—that doctors may spend more time taking care of patients and less time worrying about the difficulties inherent in dealing with third-party payers, administrators, regulators, reviewers and any other cause which may intrude upon the physician-patient relationship.