

# American Medical Association

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February 10, 1966

Leonidas Berry, M. D.  
President  
National Medical Association  
412 East 47th Street  
Suite 26  
Chicago, Illinois 60653

Dear Doctor Berry:

As promised in our telephone conference yesterday, I am attaching a copy of the specific recommendations adopted by the American Medical Association Board of Trustees, February 5, 1966.

The AMA Board of Trustees carefully reviewed the nine recommendations submitted by the NMA-AMA Liaison Committee. Although not all of the Liaison Committee's recommendations were adopted, I feel that real progress is being made.

For example, rather than adopt recommendation No. 1, calling for a review of the Civil Rights Act of 1965 on a cooperative basis by the Legal Departments of the AMA and the NMA, the AMA Board directed its own Law Department to conduct such a review. Our Board feels that it could not commit the NMA Legal Department.

Concerning recommendation No. 3, requesting the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals to reiterate its standards relating to intermural discrimination against both patients and physicians in hospitals, the AMA Board was informed that the Commission had already reiterated this standard.

The Board of Trustees felt that recommendation No. 5 was a restatement of established AMA policy and that the Association has a continuing responsibility to remind its component state associations of this policy. We have already brought this policy to the attention of our state and county medical societies on three separate occasions.

The appointment of a special committee to develop an aggressive program to end discrimination in medical and hospital services received a great deal of attention. A number of the Board members thought that no need exists for a special committee since the Liaison Committee is functioning in this area.

In behalf of the AMA Board of Trustees, I should like to extend to a representative group from your Board a cordial invitation to meet with the

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AMA Board of Trustees at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, April 1, at AMA headquarters, and to join the AMA Board at lunch.

As I indicated yesterday, we shall welcome receiving from you a list of nominees you feel would be eligible for appointment to various councils and committees of the AMA. In selecting these nominees, I suggest that you indicate their specific field of interest and competence, with some thought to geographic distribution, since these are factors considered by the nominating committee.

It was good to talk to you yesterday, and I am sending this report to you special delivery to make sure that you receive it prior to your Council meeting on Saturday.

Cordially,

  
F. J. L. Blasingame, M. D.

FJLB:s1  
Attachment