

Illinois State Medical Society



March 29, 2010

Dear Colleague:

Last week, President Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The Illinois State Medical Society charted an independent course throughout the year-long health system reform debate, repeatedly alerting Illinois congressional lawmakers to our specific concerns and policy priorities.

We continue to harbor deep concerns about the law's impact: most prominent among them are the lack of meaningful medical liability reform, the expansion of Medicaid eligibility, Congress' failure to repeal the flawed Medicare physician payment formula and the burdensome requirements it imposes on physicians. **We will not stop pressing for much-needed reforms in these and other areas simply because this bill has been signed into law.**

Despite these strong misgivings, ISMS supports many of the major goals of this health system reform effort, such as insurance coverage for millions of Americans who would not otherwise have it, and the ending of many health insurance company abuses that cause people to lose their coverage or prevent them from getting it in the first place. For our complete analysis of the law and the timeline for implementation, visit *The Great Debate* at <http://www.isms.org/thegreatdebate>.

Now that health reform is a reality, ISMS will continue to advocate for Illinois patients and physicians as it is implemented. We will work actively to explain the law's provisions as they come into effect over the next decade. We will work to mitigate its shortcomings. In short, we will do everything in our power to ensure a successful, helpful rollout for physicians and patients alike.

When all is said and done, we will still be here, standing strong for our physician colleagues and our patients. Thank you for standing with us.

Sincerely,

Peter E. Eupierre, M.D.
Chair, Board of Trustees