

## Welcome medical students,

Thank you for attending the 2023 American Medical Association Medical Student Advocacy Conference! I am so thrilled that you all have taken time out of your busy schedules to meet in Washington, DC and advocate on behalf of the medical profession, yourself, your student colleagues, your patients and the communities you serve.

With our return to in-person, I am excited to share with you our engaging sessions, powerhouse speakers, and opportunities for you to advocate for issues crucial to health care. I want you to feel well supported and prepared to advocate on the Hill and have appointed State Captains to be your resource for any questions you may have in preparing for your meetings. Please do not hesitate to reach out to them or to me with any questions.

As patients and soon-to-be physicians, we have witnessed the current healthcare shortages that will continue to be exacerbated by COVID-19 burnout and physician retirement. You all are truly the future of medicine, health policy and health care innovation. Now, more than ever, physician and medical student representation in the policymaking process is critical to ensuring that our patients have access to affordable, high quality health care. Together, speaking with one voice on Capitol Hill, we can make a difference in moving Congress to support our physician workforce and give us the resources we need to ensure access to high quality care for our patients for decades to come.

Today is just the beginning. Continuous, recurring conversations with your representative and senators back home and at future MACs and visits to DC is how we garner legislative support to make changes in policy. I look forward to seeing all we can accomplish together.

We would love to highlight your experiences and advocacy efforts today and throughout the year on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram using the hashtag **#MedStudentsAdvocate!** Be sure to tag us on Twitter using **@amamedstudents** and **@amermedicalassn** and on Instagram using **@amermedicalassn**. If you have any questions or concerns, need anything or just want to discuss the conference, my contact information is below.

This conference is for you—every minute of it is dedicated to learning together and advocating together as medical student members of the AMA and physicians-in-training. We do this together because the weight of our words is made stronger by the collective power of our voice.

Now, let's go out and be that generation, the physician leaders of tomorrow, who will center advocacy for our field of medicine, our patients and our communities.

Warmest regards,

**Kylee Borger, MPH, MS4**

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