

November 4, 2008

Dear Board Colleagues, AMA President Nancy Nielsen, AMA Board Chair Joe Heyman, and Members of the House of Delegates,

Nadine and I are deeply sorry that we could not join you for this meeting in Orlando. My heart is with you as you continue the vital work in health care policy that's ahead of us now especially with a new Presidential administration soon to take office. I will miss these discussions that will be so very rich in health policy issues critical to the well being of all Americans.

I have worked tirelessly for the American Medical Association for thirty years. I have come to know so many of you through the years and I have worked with you on the AMA committees, in my position as a member of the Board of the AMA, and as President. Some of you remember me as young medical student just beginning my journey. That energetic medical student committed to public health is still a part of me although experience and maturity have taught me how to understand the different views of other physicians and how we must work together. I truly believe that together we are stronger. As you move forward there are challenging issues ahead especially in providing health care to the millions of Americans who are uninsured. We must also work to end health care disparities.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this AMA House of Delegates. You have designated me as a leader, but I tell you honestly that in many ways you have led me. Your concerns and your friendship have guided me through the years. Now I must complete my "circle of life" and go with God.

Thank you for letting me serve.

Ron