



AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

March 7, 1984

Dear Doctor:

The AMA, with support from physicians across the country, has long been in the forefront of providing answers toward cost effective medical care. As a physician, you are aware of and concerned about the need for continuing attention to rapidly rising costs and the effect of those costs on patient care.

We all recognize that payment for physician services is not the major cause of health care inflation. However, we believe the medical community should take a leadership role to control this inflation and that this can be done most effectively through voluntary action.

As you know, the Board of Trustees and officers of the American Medical Association have asked that you, along with your colleagues, beginning today, voluntarily freeze your fees for all patients for one year. The Board and officers also ask that you continue to consider the financial circumstances of each of your patients -- especially the unemployed, the uninsured and those under Medicare -- and accept reduced fees when warranted.

We have a long tradition of providing medical care in every economic situation. Please join us as physicians again display our leadership and compassion on behalf of our patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Frank J. Cirka, Jr., M.D.", written in a cursive style.

Frank J. Cirka, Jr., M.D.
President
American Medical Association

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John J. Coury, Jr., M.D.", written in a cursive style.

John J. Coury, Jr., M.D.
Chairman
Board of Trustees
American Medical Association