

Laurel Barr, MD:

I have been practicing Emergency Medicine in various settings in Ohio for the past 10 years. During this time, my patients have suffered from inefficiencies and inequalities in our health care system, many accelerated by the pandemic. Often, by the time a patient becomes an emergency room patient the health care system has already failed them, and I cannot help them without proper tools, resources, and staff around me. This inspired me to be a member and advocate through the Ohio State Medical Association as well as the American Medical Association. Last year, I served as the OSMA delegate from the American College of Emergency Physicians and as Ohio Alternate Delegate to the AMA. This work has allowed me to be an advocate for my patients and myself. I feel this is even more important in the current political climate. I believe that, as physicians, we are the most knowledgeable and valuable resource and provide the best solutions to fixing an ailing health care system that does not work for patients or physicians. Reducing administrative burden, removing barriers to mental health services, preventing stigmatization and exclusion, ensuring our patients are protected from legal and financial repercussions when seeking care, and preventing violence towards healthcare workers are just a few of the changes that need to happen. I would be honored to serve as AMA Delegate. As an AMA Delegate, I will work to improve these and other conditions to improve bedside patient care.