

TO: MSSNY Officers, Councilors and Trustees

FROM: Members of MSSNY's Legislative & Physician Advocacy Committee

DATE: November 5, 2015

RE: Resolution 113 . 2015 House of Delegates  
Medical Society Dues as Part of Biennial Registration  
*Introduced by the Ninth District Branch*

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The following resolution was referred to the Council by the House of Delegates. The resolution was forwarded to the Legislative and Physician Advocacy Committee for further study and recommendation for the Council's consideration:

**RESOLVED, That the Medical Society of the State of New York seek by legislation to include MSSNY and County Medical Society opt-out dues in the New York State Department of Education biennial registration billing and payment.**

Resolution 113 urges MSSNY to seek legislation to include MSSNY and County Medical Society opt-out dues in the New York State Department of Education biennial registration billing and payment.

The Reference Committee heard testimony in support of and in opposition to this Resolution. While the sponsors should be commended for identifying a mechanism through which MSSNY can increase membership, several issues must be considered. First and foremost, MSSNY would not want to cede control of its billing to another entity including the State Education Department. Once control is lost, we lose control of our message. Moreover, adding MSSNY/County dues to the \$600 re-registration creates an even higher price point to the physician and could serve to deter even more physicians from becoming MSSNY members. Lastly, many specialty societies may be concerned about MSSNY having an exclusive billing arrangement with SED and could ask for one as well which could further marginalize membership in MSSNY.

The delegates, however, felt it was important to allow Council to review and contemplate the complexities of this very innovative approach toward membership. Consequently, the Resolution was referred to Council.

Unfortunately, while invited, no one representing the sponsors of the resolution participated in the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee on Legislative and Physician Advocacy.

The Committee agreed with the above stated concerns. In addition, the Committee expressed concern that should such a billing system be advanced, it was unlikely that MSSNY would receive its dues in a timely manner from the State Education Department. It was also noted that no other professional society utilizes the Education Department's licensing and re-registration program to process their dues bills. In the absence of precedent, it was recommended that the Resolution be not adopted.

**Recommendation:** That the MSSNY Committee on Legislation & Physician Advocacy urge the MSSNY Council to not adopt Resolution 113.