

American Medical Association

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Association

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **AMA, NMA OPPOSE CALIFORNIA'S PROPOSITION 54**

(WASHINGTON) The American Medical Association and the National Medical Association today announced that they are united in opposing Proposition 54 because its passage would have serious and unacceptable public health consequences. The initiative, which will appear on the October 7 recall ballot in California, would bar public agencies in the state from collecting and using vital data on race and ethnicity – in effect making it more difficult to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities and affecting the quality of research and the health care of the entire population.

“The collection of this data is critical for improving the quality of health care for all people, in addition to eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities. Proposition 54 would significantly limit the ability of physicians to evaluate and address the risk factors of their patients,” said Donald J. Palmisano, M.D., JD, president of the AMA.

“The NMA and the AMA believe that health care data should be collected on patients, by race and ethnicity, because it is critical to recognizing and treating disease patterns, especially in high risk and vulnerable populations, and controlling outbreaks of communicable disease,” said Randall W. Maxey, M.D., Ph.D., president of the NMA. “This data is also needed for conducting effective public health efforts; targeting early diagnostic and preventive services; understanding differential death rates; and eliminating racial and ethnic health disparities.”

The AMA and the NMA also concur with the California Medical Association, Golden State Medical Association, and many other health care organizations that the harmful effects flowing from the adoption of Proposition 54 would be long lasting and significant.

“We urge all California voters to vote ‘no’ on Proposition 54.”

#### **For further information, contact:**

Ross Fraser  
*Public Information Officer*  
American Medical Association  
312-464-4443

Reese J. Stone  
*Director of Communications*  
National Medical Association  
202-277-7282