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SDSMA LEADERSHIP ADVOCATES FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM IN WASHINGTON, DC

SIOUX FALLS, SD – March 30, 2009 – Several members of the South Dakota State Medical Association leadership traveled to Washington, D.C., in March to advocate for issues affecting the practice of medicine in South Dakota.

SDSMA President Cynthia A. Weaver, MD, President-elect Tom Huber, MD; SDSMA Vice President Karla Murphy, MD; AMA Delegate Mary Carpenter, MD; AMA Alternate Delegate Herb Saloum, MD; and former AMA Delegate James Engelbrecht, MD; Dan Heinemann, MD, Chief Medical Officer at Sanford Health; and Regional Health President and Chief Executive Charles Hart, MD, met with South Dakota's Congressional members – Senators John Thune and Tim Johnson and Representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin – and their staffs.

SDSMA leadership discussed with the Congressional delegation a range of issues affecting the SDSMA membership, including health care reform and the effects of the recently passed economic stimulus package, on organized medicine.

SDSMA leadership also made South Dakota's voice heard at the AMA National Advocacy Conference on March 10 and 11 in Washington, D.C.

The SDSMA serves more than 1,900 physician members who are dedicated to the health of South Dakotans. The mission of the SDSMA is to promote the art and science of medicine, to protect and improve the health of the public and provide leadership and advocacy in the field of quality health care.

Learn more about the SDSMA at www.sdsma.org.

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