

## From the President

# The Battle for Liberty

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The battle for liberty rages.

Although the conflict called the War Between the States cost more American lives than all other American wars, and World War I was called the “war to end all wars,” and World War II revealed the courage and fortitude of “the greatest generation,” the battle we face today may well determine the very survival of the experiment in liberty, the republic called the United States of America.

The military components of the aforementioned conflicts represented force applied to preserve the liberties won by valiant colonists and patriots. These were common men who sacrificed with meager resources to resist tyranny. The documents our Framers gave us set up, for all to see and understand, the foundation of freedom as well as the means of preserving that freedom.

The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, after 70 years of strategic opposition to the political devaluing of liberty and justice for all, is now more poised than ever to lead in this war for liberty.

Although we look back at years of usurpation of constitutional authority by idealists of Marxist anti-theistic and socialist deception, we are even more strongly committed to the defense of honor and nobility inherent in the unfettered expression of all that freedom can be.

In this fight for freedom, compromise is capitulation. The American Medical Association, with its original goal of representing physicians, has compromised, facilitating the politics and socio-economics of collectivism to undermine the free market. AAPS unapologetically defends against government intrusion into the practice of medicine and will continue to protect the patient-physician relationship under the banner of *omnia pro aegroto*: “All for the patient.”

With similar passion, South Carolina is on the threshold of leading our nation again. The South Carolina General Assembly has passed House Bill 3101, and sent it to the state senate.

The purpose of this bill is to block implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in South Carolina. Courageous constitutionalist legislators are saying “enough” to the federal overreach of the unconstitutional healthcare bill that is re-creating slavery with a new face. When South Carolina pushes back, and other states follow, a refreshing wind of liberation will blow across our land.

A people will survive when the chains of oppression give way to the ideals of liberty. When moral distinctions prevail in the hearts and souls of individuals, organizations, and nations, resounding strength will persevere in triumph over moral relativism and political correctness.

The year 2014 can be the beginning of a reversal of destructive policies and oppressive regulations. Military history reveals that battles are not fought in ideal situations and temperate climes, but they are fought where and when the enemy threatens. We need to take back liberty that is being lost to tyranny and oppression over time through incremental, deceptive, and even perverse distortions of truth and reality.

At this critical time we are facing the greatest threat to our liberties from enemies domestic with faces familiar. It is now that we medical doctors must resist all intrusions of government into our patient relationships. These intrusions have been transforming our noble profession into an instrument of political-social change that will result in a nation that resembles a totalitarian state more than a free and lawful republic.

This letter is a call to all freedom-minded doctors to abandon participation and complicity with the government-controlled, oppressive regulatory chains that enslave us, and begin serving our patients, our own consciences under God, and our nation, with bold courage to preserve our liberties in these great United States of America.

It is better to count the cost of liberty while the doors of freedom are still open, than to wait until they are closed and locked.

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