



6034 West Courtyard Drive  
Suite 140  
Austin, Texas 78730-5079  
p (512) 329-8666  
f (512) 329-8237  
www.tafp.org

April 3, 2009

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the Texas Academy of Family Physicians and the 5,500 family physicians, residents and medical students in the state of Texas, I am writing to respectfully urge your support of Dr. Joe Cunningham and Dr. Lewis Foxhall for the positions of Trustee of the Texas Medical Association.

Hard choices are what will make the difference between medical organizations that sustain the highest principles of medical professionalism during the impending health care 'reform' debate and those who suffer the inexorable slide to predictable mediocrity. We have witnessed the deplorable decline of medical societies in other states who have lost their sense of mission and consequently compromised their credibility to speak as the voice of medicine in the halls of their state legislatures and Congress.

In our careful consideration of all the candidates, we believe that right now – on the eve of a significant shift in health care delivery that will unsettle the very foundation of organized medicine – TMA must have leaders who will have the wisdom and courage borne of years of hard knocks and combat in the political trenches.

Joe and Lewis are fighters. They have the strength that comes from hard experience, and when knocked down, they will get up off the canvas and keep punching. We should expect nothing less from our elected leaders at this critical shift in public policy and medical practice. You can join us and make that deliberate choice by helping elect them to the TMA Board of Trustees.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R. Youens" with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Youens, M.D.  
President  
Texas Academy of Family Physicians