



December 22, 2023

Dear members,

Yesterday's announcement of \$100 million in immediate stabilization funding for family and rural generalist care represents a significant commitment from government. Further, it is a clear acknowledgement of the current crisis in primary care. For physicians who have been wondering how much longer they can hang on, and I have heard from many of you in recent weeks, I hope this announcement provides some much-needed, albeit overdue, hope and encouragement. Dr. Parks outlined the highlights of the funding in his [President's Letter](#), and you can read the full government press release [here](#). The AMA, and your SFM and SRM physician representatives, are working hard to get those funds distributed in the early part of 2024, as per the Minister's promise.

Government has also committed to an additional \$100 million for stabilization that will be paid in early 2025, meaning a total of \$200 million has been dedicated solely to stabilizing family medicine.

I want to reiterate what Dr. Parks said during yesterday's announcement – this is a good start, but only a start. It is meant to help keep the "lights on" for the family and rural generalist practices that are struggling, but there is still a lot of work ahead of us.

The [AMA's Strike Team](#) will continue efforts on your behalf, advocating for bridging funding for comprehensive care in the community, and refining the new [Physician Comprehensive Care Model](#) – a compensation model that respects the skills and experience family physicians and rural generalists bring to the delivery of comprehensive care.

Family Medicine and Rural Generalist Town Hall

Thank you to everyone who came out this past Wednesday night to attend the virtual town hall. In total, more than 300 people attended and heard a presentation from the Strike Team and participated in the Q & A that followed. There were a lot of astute questions, including about accountabilities, benchmarks and care in specialized areas. As I said at the town hall, work is ongoing and we will take all of these ideas and concerns into consideration. For those of you who couldn't make it, you can find a recording of the presentation portion on the [Strike Team web page \(member log-in required\)](#). I also want to extend my deepest thanks to the Strike Team members and AMA staff who have worked non-stop to get us to where we are today. I am particularly grateful to Dr. Paul Parks who has been relentless in advocating for family medicine and rural generalists and continues to be our champion.

A time for reflection and rest

The holiday season is upon us and I hope each and every one of you can enjoy some time with friends, family and your community. Even if you are working over the holidays, as I know many of you are, I wish for you at least a few moments of reflection and rest. You have worked so incredibly hard this year, often against what seems like insurmountable odds, and you continue to provide the best possible care to the patients who rely on you. Thank you. I hope yesterday's announcement will make the season a bit brighter as we look to 2024 and the promise and possibility of the change that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Bates". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Sarah Bates

Dr. Sarah Bates, Acting President
Section of Family Medicine
On behalf of your [SFM Executive](#)