



The Resource for Medical Communicators

For immediate release

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**American Medical Writers Association
Releases Position Statement on Legislation That Negatively Affects
the Livelihood of Freelance Medical Communicators**

ROCKVILLE, MD (January 23, 2020) – A movement among state legislatures to redefine the role of the independent contractor could disrupt how freelance medical writers and editors do business in the future. Legislation has already been enacted in California, and similar bills have been proposed in a growing number of states. The American Medical Writers Association (AMWA), whose membership includes independent contractors and those who hire them, today released a *Position Statement on Legislation That Negatively Affects the Livelihood of Freelance Medical Communicators*.

According to Ann Winter-Vann, PhD, AMWA President, “AMWA strongly disagrees with legislation that would either discourage companies from hiring freelance medical communicators or force independent contractors to become employees, which will diminish their autonomy and may cause harm to their business model and relationships.” AMWA recognizes the legitimate concerns about worker misclassification and the exploitation of workers that can result from the gig economy. While there is a need to protect exploited workers, Dr. Winter-Vann points out that AMWA “urges legislators to ensure that laws resulting from their efforts allow those who are legitimate independent contractors by choice to continue to practice as freelance professionals.”

“As a leading organization with many members who work as freelancers, AMWA hopes to add the strength of its voice to the conversation so that legislators become aware of our members’ concerns,” says Dr. Winter-Vann.

The AMWA Position Statement is available at
http://www.amwa.org/resource/resmgr/about_amwa/amwa_statement_legislation_n.pdf.

AMWA has also provided brief background information on the issue along with suggestions for what people can do to make their own voices heard. This background information is available at
http://www.amwa.org/resource/resmgr/about_amwa/Background_Information_AMWA_.pdf.

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About the American Medical Writers Association

Founded in 1940, the American Medical Writers Association (AMWA) is the leading professional organization for writers, editors, and other communicators of medical information. AMWA serves as a resource for professional medical communicators, promoting excellence in medical communication and providing educational resources in support of that goal. AMWA represents more than 4,000 members in the US, Canada, and 30 other countries who are committed to accurately and ethically making information about health and medicine clear and meaningful.

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