

To the Members of the Executive Committee:

I'm writing to ask that consideration of the Health Care Report be postponed by the Executive Committee or by the sponsors until the November meeting of the House. I along with a number of other past presidents are concerned that a report of this complexity and length which also has a number of controverted issues not be considered at the meeting at which it is introduced nor subjected to an up or down vote at that time. Best practice in the past has been to present such reports and take questions at the first meeting and then have a debate at the second meeting so that the debate can be more informed and deliberate and compromises can be worked out in the interim. That practice is particularly applicable here under the circumstances. Most of us have just seen the report and I doubt that I am alone in not understanding much of it because it is not a report simply on the law but it makes a number of factual conclusions and recommendations not within the knowledge and expertise of lawyers. We also do not have any reports from sections or committees on such issues as immunity. Furthermore, we are not meeting in person and cannot exchange informal opinions and find common ground. There is no way we can have the report adequately explained and then a deliberate and careful debate which is currently allocated for 35 minutes. We ask in the interest of careful deliberation and fairness to the members of the House that the sponsors agree to explain the report and answer questions at the meeting on Saturday and that consideration of the report be postponed until the November meeting.

Sincerely,

A. Vincent Buzard, Past President
Mark Alcott, Past President
A. Thomas Levin, Past President
Vincent Doyle, Past President
Sharon Stern Gerstman, Past President
James Moore, Past President
Bernice Leber, Past President