



News Release

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**Regina M. Benjamin, M.D., M.B.A.
Voted Chair-elect of
Federation of State Medical Boards**

DALLAS – Regina Benjamin, M.D., M.B.A., was voted Chair-Elect of the Federation of State Medical Boards at the organization's 95th Annual Meeting in San Francisco, Calif., May 3-5, 2007.

Dr. Benjamin is Founder and CEO of the Bayou La Batre Rural Health Clinic in Bayou La Batre, Ala., which serves this small, Gulf Coast shrimping village's largely poor population. The Bayou Clinic was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina and a few months later by a New Year's Day fire, but Dr. Benjamin never stopped seeing patients or caring for the community.

As chair-elect, Dr. Benjamin will assist the FSMB's Chair in discharging his leadership responsibilities during the next year. She will assume the position of Chair during the FSMB's Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, in May 2008. Dr. Benjamin has been active in the medical regulatory community on the state and national level for 20 years. In addition to serving on the FSMB's board of directors, she has served on many of the organization's committees, including the recent workgroup that developed the FSMB's *Model Guidelines for Opioid*

Addiction Treatment in the Medical Office. Dr. Benjamin also served on the National Board of Medical Examiners and chaired the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 3 Committee. In Alabama, Dr. Benjamin served on the state's Board of Medical Examiners for 12 years.

In 1995, Dr. Benjamin was first physician under 40 years old and first African-American woman to be elected to the American Medical Association Board of Trustees. In 2002, Dr. Benjamin became president of the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, making her the first African-American woman to become president of a U.S. State Medical Society. She is currently a member of the AMA Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs.

Dr. Benjamin was the U.S. recipient of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights, and has been ABC television's Person of the Week and CBS This Morning's Woman of the Year. Dr. Benjamin received the National Caring Award, which was inspired by Mother Teresa and recently received the Papal honor, *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* from Pope Benedict XVI.

The Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, Inc., is a national not-for-profit organization comprised of the 70 state medical boards of the United States and its territories. The FSMB's mission is to continually improve the quality, safety and integrity of health care in the United States through the development and promotion of high standards for physician licensure and practice.

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