

Medicine Challenged Insurance Mega-Mergers and Won

Landmark ruling upheld, protects U.S. patients and physicians

April 28, 2017 - Today, a federal appeals court upheld the lower court's ruling to block industry giant Anthem's proposed acquisition of Cigna (See the [Court Opinion](#)). This is a monumental win for America's patients and physicians, which was made possible through medicine's joint leadership -- most notably collaboration between the Medical Society of the District of Columbia (MSDC) and the American Medical Association.

The District of Columbia's Attorney General, Karl Racine, was one of 15 state Attorneys General who joined the U.S. Department of Justice in opposing the merger between Anthem and Cigna. MSDC and the AMA partnered to file an [Amicus Brief](#) with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, supporting the Department of Justice in opposing the merger of Anthem and Cigna.

"These insurance companies were trying to stack the deck," said AMA President Andrew W. Gurman, MD. "They sought even more negotiating power over you. But, using hard data in conjunction with partners, we were able to convince the courts not to allow this to occur."

For 21 months, AMA, state medical societies and other partners examined the current landscape in each state, as well as the future implications of these proposed mega-mergers. MSDC President Julian Craig, MD, stated previously in an [MSDC Release](#), "Patients tell me that their health plan networks are already too narrow and that their premiums are already too high. Additional consolidation would allow large insurers to influence the scope, coverage and quality of health care and exercise control over clinical decisions, weakening the patient-physician relationship." The AMA's annual [Competition in Health Insurance](#), an analysis of insurance markets, showed nearly half of all states could see diminished competition in local health insurance markets if the Anthem-Cigna and Aetna-Humana mega-mergers were allowed to proceed.

Barring an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, this decision concludes a successful campaign by the AMA and 17 state medical societies, including key work from MSDC, to protect you and your patients. Together, we collected the insights, analysis and facts needed to win this case--again.

With the evidence on its side, the coalition advocated before the U.S. Department of Justice, congressional committees, state attorneys general, insurance commissioners, and federal courts. This outcome illustrates that when the House of Medicine joins together, the best outcome for patients and doctors can be achieved.

At a time when there are too many divisions, medicine has come together.

Help sustain our advocacy efforts on issues of importance to you and your patients. [Join the AMA](#) and join or renew with [MSDC](#) and support our continued, shared success.