



MEMBER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Korean Medical Association

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A hand in a white lab coat holding a stethoscope, positioned on the left side of the slide.

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Current Status of the Medical Crisis in Korea

1. Background

- Feb 2024: Government announced an increase in medical school quota
 - From 3058 → +2,000 students(▲65%)
 - Goal: +10,000 physicians by 2035
- No sufficient consultation with medical community



2. Response of the Medical Community

- KMA strongly opposed:
 - No scientific evidence for expansion
 - Risks: lower education quality, patient safety threats, workforce imbalance, higher medical costs
- Collective actions:
 - Mass resignation & work stoppage by residents/interns
 - Medical students' leave of absence → disruption in training



3. Government's Policy Reconsideration

- Enrollment expansion plan put on hold
- To be reconsidered from the beginning
- Medical students returning to classes
- Residents preparing to return to clinical practice
- Unresolved conflicts remain → full normalization will take time

4. KMA's Recommendation

- Evidence-based policy making
 - Independent body for workforce projection
 - Meaningful consultation with medical community
- Strengthening essential & regional healthcare
 - Establish healthcare delivery & cooperation system
 - Expand infrastructure & support
 - Government accountability for medical accidents in essential care

5. Support for Students & Residents

- Ensure quality of medical education despite quota issues
- Secure faculty, facilities, resources
- Strengthen
 - Basic & clinical medicine integration
 - Digital health expertise & research capacity
- Improve residents' training environment:
 - Shorter working hours
 - Fairer compensation
 - Standardized evaluation & quality control

6. Recovery of Resident Workforce

- Students and residents returning with new government
- Sept 2, 2025 recruitment results
 - 7,984 interns & residents selected (59.1% of available positions)
 - Interns: 52.0% | Residents: 61.2%
 - Metropolitan hospitals: 63.0%
 - Non-metropolitan: 53.5%
- Total residents in training: 10,305
 - About 76.2% of usual level (vs. 13,531 in Mar 2024)
 - Strong recovery from 18.7% in June 2024



7. Outlook and Commitment

- Minister of Health and Welfare emphasized:
 - The return of residents will help stabilize the healthcare system.
- The Korean Medical Association (KMA) will:
 - Emphasizing the need for continuous dialogue and policy adjustments
 - Continue sincere dialogue with the government
 - Address fundamental problems in Korea's healthcare system
 - Ensure sustainability of national healthcare
 - Make every effort for a new leap forward in Korea's healthcare system



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Passage of the Nursing Act in Korea

1. Background

- Feb 9, 2023: Health & Welfare Committee Health & Welfare Committee → decided to send independent Nursing Act bill directly to plenary session

2. KMA's Opposition

- Undermines collaborative healthcare system
- Infringes medical license scope
- Serious risk to public health
- Strong opposition expressed:
 - For over two years, the Association opposed the law through 50+ rallies and widespread media campaigns.

3. Risks of the Nursing Act

- Intensifies professional conflicts
- Disrupts residency training ecosystem
- Puts nurses at risk
(lack of legal protection, liability issues)
- Leads to unlicensed practices by PAs



4. KMA's Response & Commitment

- Expresses serious concern over illegal PA practices
- Established reporting center for damages from unlicensed nursing acts
- Goal: Protect patients' health & safety
- Continue to safeguard collaborative, safe healthcare system



3

Unauthorized Medical Practices by Traditional Korean Medicine Practitioners

1. Background

- Exploitation of medical workforce shortage to encroach on medical doctors' domain
- Unauthorized practices observed:
 - Ultrasound & X-ray exams
 - Blood tests
 - Prescription drugs (lidocaine, steroids)
- Constitutes unlicensed medical practice → serious threat to public safety

2. KMA actions:

- Continuous monitoring
- Public awareness on risks
- Strong response to unlicensed practices



4 KMA's Internal Self-Regulation System

KMA's Internal Self-Regulation System

1. Purpose

- Strengthen ethics and professionalism in the medical community
 - Continuous monitoring

2. Key Bodies:

- Central Ethics Committee
- Task Force for Pilot Project on Expert Evaluation
- Preparatory Committee for Korean Medical Licensing Authority

KMA's Internal Self-Regulation System

3. Functions:

- Enhance transparency and trust in medical practice
- Establish a systematic internal self-regulation framework
- Improve professional expertise and reinforce ethical standards

4. Goals:

- Enable physicians to fulfill professional responsibilities
- Maintain public trust and fulfill social responsibilities
- Promote sustainable development of the medical community and improve public healthcare quality



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KMA's Social Contribution Activities

KMA's Social Contribution Activities

1. Volunteer Activities:

- Support vulnerable members of society
- Serve as a model for professional organizations

2. Domestic Disasters:

- Prompt dispatch of medical volunteer teams
- Protect health and safety of disaster victims

3. International Disasters:

- Donations and deployment of medical personnel
- Show solidarity with the global community
- Fulfill humanitarian responsibilities

4. Commitment:

- Continue efforts to safeguard public health and safety
- Contribute to the well-being of humanity



Thank you for your attention.

