## STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC CREDENTIALING

Committee of Origin: Quality Management and Departmental Administration (Approved by the ASA House of Delegates on October 15, 2003, and last affirmed on October 22, 2008)

The American Society of Anesthesiologists believes that the granting, renewal and termination of medical staff privileges should be based upon quality of professional care considerations only, and should occur pursuant to procedures set forth in the medical staff bylaws. The Society condemns the practice known as "economic credentialing," by which decisions related to medical staff privileges are based on economic considerations that are unrelated to quality of care.

Economic credentialing can take a variety of forms in addition to economic profiling (granting of privileges based on economic considerations, including the consumption of economic resources in the provision of care, cost of provider services, etc.). Such profiling may include the conditioning of medical staff privileges on: 1) the making of direct or indirect payments to the hospital or its agents in amounts that exceed the fair market value of facilities or services provided to medical staff member; or 2) the requirement that members of a particular department of the medical staff accept less than fair market value for the provision of care to patients in the hospital.

The Society believes that anesthesiologists should not, as a condition of medical privileges, be compelled to purchase goods or services at more than fair market value nor to provide their services at less than fair market value. The Society also believes that quality of care issues involved in the privileging process should be exclusively dealt with by the medical staff, and that medical staff privileges should be granted, renewed or terminated only upon recommendation of the medical staff.