

**REFERENCE COMMITTEE D (Public Health)**  
**SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE NEW ENGLAND DELEGATION**  
**Prepared by: Kathy Hughes MD, FACS, Lynda Kabbash MD, FAAAAI**

**Please list two questions for the Candidate Interviews based on the topics represented within your reference committee.**

1. Why do you think efforts to reclassify marijuana to allow study have not proved fruitful to date?
2. “There are two resolutions on Immunizations/Vaccines from Oklahoma and AAP. What are your thoughts on non-medical exemptions: should they be eliminated and why? Also, do you have concern about backlash from the ‘anti-vaxxer’s?’”

**CONSENT CALENDAR FOR APPROVAL**

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|--------------------------------|---|
| <b><i>BOT Report 11</i></b>    | <b><i>Early Child Care...</i></b><br>Adopt following in lieu of Resolution 416-A-17 (5 New HOD Policy)  |
| <b><i>BOT Report 16</i></b>    | <b><i>Chronically homeless, how to discharge</i></b><br>Adopt the following in lieu of Resolution 826-I-18 (8 Recommendations)  |
| <b><i>BOT Report 28</i></b>    | <b><i>Do not criminalize homelessness...</i></b><br>Adopt the following in lieu of Resolution 410-A-18 plus 3 statements which follow.  |
| <b><i>BOT Report 29</i></b>    | <b><i>Safety and health code compliance in schools...</i></b><br>Adopt in lieu of Resolution 413-A-18 (2 Recommendations)   |
| <b><i>401 (OR)</i></b>         | <b><i>Pregnancy Intention Screenings, prepare for healthy pregnancy. Support.</i></b><br>Comment: age range is omitted. I am wondering how this would apply to teenagers. It is a relevant question for adolescents so perhaps not necessary to specify age range.<br>Pregnancy intention screening in EMR  |
| <b><i>402 YPS</i></b>          | <b><i>Bullying in practice of medicine</i></b><br>RESOLVED clear definition of professional bullying with report back 2020 <b>Support</b>   |
| <b><i>403 YPS</i></b>          | <b><i>White House Asian Americans/Pacific Islanders</i></b><br>Disaggregation of data, restoration of webpages and report back 2020   |
| <b><i>404 NED and Derm</i></b> | <b><i>Shade structures/public/private/zoning</i></b><br>Awnings, gazebo’s etc   |
| <b><i>405 (CA)</i></b>         | <b><i>Gun Violence Prevention Safety Features.</i></b> Support (strongly!)  |
| <b><i>411 NY</i></b>           | <b><i>AMA to Analyze Benefits/Harm of Legalization of Marijuana</i></b><br>Whereas, Review and analysis of the emerging data would be helpful to state (?State)medical societies as they provide advice to their governmental representatives and regulators as they formulate policies toward marijuana; therefore be it<br>RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association review pertinent data from those states that have legalized marijuana. (Directive to Take Action)<br>“I think we must have policy on this and Resolution is not necessary” |
| <b><i>412 (NY)</i></b>         | <b><i>Regulating Liquid Nicotine and E-Cigarettes</i></b><br>? existing policy <b>Support.</b> Consider one-word amendment: change “limit”  |

415 (OK)

***Distracted driver legislation***

Whereas, Current AMA Policy, H-15.952, “The Dangers of Distraction While Operating Hand-Held Devices,” merely states “Our AMA will endorse legislation that would ban the use of hand-held devices while driving”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association actively lobby for federal legislation to decrease distracted driving injuries and fatalities by banning the use of electronic communication such as texting, taking photos or video and posting on social media while operating a motor vehicle; (Directive to Take Action) and be it further  
Another RESOLVED hands free technology does not solve distraction though

416 (OK)

***Non-Medical Exemptions from Immunizations***

Whereas, AMA public health policy encourages state medical associations to seek removal of non-medical exemption in statutes requiring mandatory immunizations, including for childcare and school attendance and encourages physicians to grant vaccine exemption requests only when medical contraindications are present (AMA Policy H-440.970); and

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association actively advocate for federal legislation that incentivizes states to eliminate non-medical exemptions to mandated pediatric immunizations. (Directive to Take Action)

Very important update internet bullying of vaccine proponents

Non-medical exemptions from immunizations. Support. This is consistent with the resolution that passed

417 PA

***Improved Health in the United States Prison System through Hygiene and Health Educational Programming for Inmates and Prison Staff***

Whereas, Existing AMA policy focuses on increasing health literacy among populace to remove barriers to effective medical diagnosis and treatment through the development of literacy appropriate, culturally diverse, health-related patient education materials (H-160.931); **Support**

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association collaborate with state medical societies to emphasize the importance of hygiene and health literacy information sessions for both inmates and staff in state and local prison systems. (Directive to Take Action)

I think already in place

420 RFS

***Coordinating Correctional and Community Healthcare***

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support linkage of those incarcerated to community clinics upon release in order to accelerate access to primary care and improve health outcomes among this vulnerable patient population, as well as adequate funding (New HOD Policy); and be it further RESOLVED, That our AMA support the collaboration of correctional health workers and community health care providers for those transitioning from a correctional institution to the community. (New HOD Policy)  
New policy makes sense **Support**

421 RFS

***Contraception for Incarcerated Women***

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support incarcerated persons’ access to evidence-based contraception counseling, access to all contraceptive methods and autonomy over contraceptive decision-making prior to release. (New HOD Policy)

Whereas, Up to 84% of incarcerated women have had a prior unintended pregnancy, 77-84% of incarcerated women plan to be sexually active within six months of release<sup>6</sup> and 72% of incarcerated women were not using a regular form of contraception prior to

incarceration; and **Support**

- 422 RFS** *Promoting Nutrition Education Among Healthcare Providers*  
RESOLVED, That American Medical Association Policy H-150.995, “Basic Courses in Nutrition, be reaffirmed (Reaffirm HOD Policy); and be it further RESOLVED, That AMA Policy H-150.953, “Obesity as a Major Public Health Problem,” be reaffirmed. (Reaffirm HOD Policy)
- 424 (AAPMR)** *Physician Involvement in State Regulations of Motor Vehicle Operation and/or Firearm Use by Individuals with Cognitive Deficits Due to Traumatic Brain Injury*  
RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association reaffirm current AMA policy, H-145.999, “Gun Regulation,” stating it supports stricter enforcement  
RESOLVED, That our AMA advocate for physician-led committees in each state to give further recommendations to the state regarding driving and/or gun use by individuals who are cognitively impaired and/or a danger to themselves or others. (Directive to Take Action)
- 425 GA** *Distracted Driver Education and Advocacy*  
Whereas, The CDC states that in 2016, 3,450 people were killed in crashes involving a distracted driver; and Whereas, The CDC also found that in 2015, 391,000 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving a distracted driver; and  
Whereas, One-fourth of all traffic accidents are associated with cell phone use; and  
Advertising campaign and education program for distracted driving high fiscal note which not high enough
- 426 MAS/American Association of Public Health Physicians**  
*Health Care Accreditation of Correctional, Detention and Juvenile Facilities*  
**Support** Whereas, Being an accredited facility has distinct advantages including: 1) ensuring proper health care is provided, 2) demonstrating to the public that the facility has taken steps to care for those incarcerated, 3) promoting the health of a vulnerable segment of society and 4) contributing to the welfare of the public by lessening its financial health care burden; and Whereas, At the present time, only approximately 15% of the nearly 7,000 penal facilities in the United States are accredited; and RESOLVEDS I think second is feasible Directive to Take Action); and be it further RESOLVED, That our AMA advocate that all correctional, detention and juvenile facilities be accredited by a national accrediting organization, such as the NCCHC or ACA, no later than 2025. (Directive to Take Action)  
**Watch/Support**
- 429 MSS** *Support of children incarcerated parents*  
RESOLVED provide resources and support (New Policy) **Support Watch/Support**
- 430 MSS** *Compassionate release of prisoners*  
3 RESOLVEDS New Policy compassionate release Directive to Take Action model legislation and transparent reporting **Support**
- 431 MSS** *Eliminating recommendations to restrict dietary cholesterol and fat*  
RESOLVED Amend Policy H-150,944 by addition and deletion
- 432 MSS** *HIV non-disclosure*  
RESOLVED repeal legislation, people living with HIV undetectable viral load **Watch/Support**
- 434 NJ** *Change in marijuana classification for research*  
Petition US FDA/DEA to change schedule classification of marijuana

<b>CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DENIAL</b>
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- 407 (CA)**      ***Evaluating Autonomous Vehicles as a Means to Reduce MVA***  
 Whereas, Over 90% of all motor vehicle accidents are primarily attributable to driver error, and over 40% of fatal accidents involve substance use, fatigue, or a distracted driver; and  
 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association monitor the development of autonomous vehicles, with particular focus on the technology’s impact on motor vehicle related injury and death (Directive to Take Action); and be it further another Resolved for safety Directive to Take Action
- 408 (IL)**      **Banning Edible Cannabis Products**  
 Whereas, There is much more risk of initiation with candy marijuana than with flavored tobacco products; and  
 Whereas, Consumers often do not understand toxic hazards of edible cannabis and may consume a greater than intended amount; therefore be it  
 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association adopt policy supporting a total ban on recreational edible cannabis products (New HOD Policy); and be it further  
 RESOLVED, That our AMA support or cause to be introduced legislation to ban all recreational edible cannabis products. (Directive to Take Action)
- 427 MI**      ***Utility of Autonomous Vehicles for Individuals Who are Visually Impaired or Developmentally Disabled***  
 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association work with the National Transportation Safety Board to support physician input on research into the capability of autonomous or “self-driving” vehicles to enable individuals who are visually impaired or developmentally disabled to benefit from autonomous vehicle technology. (Directive to Take Action) Can AMA do this? ? For referral

<b>RESOLUTIONS FOR DISCUSSION</b>
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- 406 (CA)**      ***Reduction consumption of processed meats***  
 Whereas, The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) part of the World Health Organization (WHO) has classified processed meats as a Group 1 carcinogen after reviewing over 800 research studies; and  
  
 RESOLVED, That our AMA support public awareness of the risks of processed processed meat consumption, including research that better defines the health risks imposed by different methods of meat processing (New HOD Policy); and be it further  
  
 3 other RESOLVEDS including nutrition education alternatives (all New HOD Policy)
- 409 NY**      ***Addressing the Vaping Crisis***  
 ...these devices will, on rare occasion, 54 explode; and  
 Whereas, Vaping is highly addictive, and is marketed to children, and often leads to smoking; therefore be it  
 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate to the Food and Drug Administration that vaping devices should be available only by prescription for smokers who are trying to quit smoking. (Directive to Take Action)  
 Wants to make vaping devices Rx only. Oppose as written. The difficulty is that the amount of nicotine in these devices is not regulated, is very high, and varies. And they do contain other toxic chemicals. I favor strong restrictions on vaping devices (e.g. sales in adult only establishments, no advertising, regulate nicotine content, require listing of all ingredients and amounts, etc.) as well as study of how effective they are for cessation before suggesting that they be prescribed. Alternatively amend to say “...vaping devices

be available only by prescription for smokers who are trying to quit smoking, and such devices should contain only unflavored, regulated, non-addictive quantities of nicotine

410 NY

***Reducing Health Disparities Through Education New York***

“Although this seems elementary, it is not well written, there are no references and ? existing policy, I feel there must be some in place”

Whereas, Personal behaviors informed by education leads to a decrease in unhealthy behaviors (e.g. smoking); (not a good example as smoking is highly addictive...)

413 NY

***End the epidemic HIV***

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate that the federal budget include provisions to End the HIV epidemic and that such a plan be structured after New York State's EtE 2020 or other similar state programs. (Directive to Take Action)

**Watch/Support**

414 (OK)

***Marijuana hospital use***

CSAPH Report 5 does not address marijuana use in hospital

RESOLVED guidelines for this report back I-19 (Directive to Take Action)

418 WA

***Eliminating the Death Toll from Combustible Cigarettes***

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association study and report on the conditions under which our country could successfully eliminate the manufacture, distribution, and sale of combustible cigarettes and other combustible tobacco products at the earliest feasible date.(Directive to Take Action)

Studying elimination of combustible cigarettes is a worthy goal, but if it leaves cigars, small cigars, and electronic nicotine delivery systems on the market, not sure much is achieved. I'd suggest including all tobacco products in the study or study elimination

419 WA

***Universal Access for Essential Public Health Services***

RESOLVED, That our AMA prepare and publicize annual reports on current efforts and progress to achieve universal access to all essential public health services. (Directive to Take Action) Doesn't sound feasible

423 AAP

***Mandatory Immunizations for Asylum Seekers***

Whereas, Immunizations remain one of the greatest health promotion accomplishments of our time; therefore be it RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association call for asylum seekers to receive all medically-appropriate vaccinations upon presentation for asylum regardless of country of origin. (Directive to Take Action)

**Support**, with the caveat that “medically-appropriate” includes examination of documentation of prior immunization, is age-appropriate, and is available without cost to the recipient. Will be interesting to listen to testimony around feasibility.

428 MSS

**Dangers of Vaping.**

**Needs amending.** Concept is good but it doesn't specify what to say in the warning labels or event to mention nicotine. Many teenagers believe that vaping devices are safe and nicotine-free. A warning label without specifics might even attract young smokers.

433 NE/WV

***Transformation of rural community public health***

RESOLVED concrete examples of leadership/funding public health