

**REFERENCE COMMITTEE D (Public Health)**  
**SUMMARY REPORT FOR THE NEW ENGLAND DELEGATION**  
Prepared by: William Kassler, MD

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

1. The FDA has the authority to regulate e-cigarettes as a nicotine delivery device, but has so far declined to do so. Given that tobacco remains the leading cause of premature death and disability; and that vaping is a gateway to nicotine addiction, should our AMA place a greater priority on this issue in our legislative and regulatory advocacy?
2. What is your perspective on how our AMA can best help to stop gun violence in the US?

***CONSENT CALENDAR FOR APPROVAL***

- BOT 11***                      ***Housing Provision and Social Support to Immediately Alleviate Chronic Homelessness in the United States.***  
Threads the needle by endorsing both evidence based strategies rather than prioritizing one.
- BOT 27***                      ***Policy and Economic Support for Early Child Care***  
Reaffirms policies supporting paid family leave and other related policies, encourages state societies to work with their legislatures to enact state law, and encourages employers to offer paid family leave. Stops short of calling for Federal action in part due to current political climate.
- BOT 28***                      ***Mandatory Public Health Reporting of Law-Enforcement-Related Injuries and Deaths***  
Reaffirms policy supporting universal adoption of CDC national surveillance system (National Violent Death Reporting System). Calls for amending policy: affirms violence is a SDoH, encourages NAM to study violence between LEO and the public (especially minorities), encourage CDC to study legal intervention violence, encourages states to require reporting of legal interventions deaths to public health agencies.
- CSAPH 01***                      ***CSAPH Sunset Review of 2008 House of Delegates Policies***
- CSAPH 04***                      ***The Physician's Role in Firearm Safety***  
Outstanding review of a complex, controversial and emotional issue that emphasizes the science and evidence.
- CSAPH 05***                      ***Tobacco Harm Reduction: A Comprehensive Nicotine Policy to Reduce Death and Disease Caused by Smoking***  
Outstanding report reviewing evidence of harm reduction approach to cessation and e-cigarettes. Recommendations, reaffirms, amends and updates current policies to reflect e-cigarettes less harmful than combustibles but nicotine in any form is unsafe and addicting, particularly among youth. Also urges physicians to educate ourselves about vaping and counsel our patients on the harms.

- 402** *Schools as Gun-Free Zones*  
New policy: advocate for schools to remain gun-free zones; and oppose requirements or incentives of teachers to carry weapons.
- 404** *Emphasizing the Human Papillomavirus Vaccines as Anti-Cancer Prophylaxis for a Gender-Neutral Demographic*  
New policy that states HPV vaccines as beneficial to *all genders* as *anti-cancer* and anti-STI and AMA work to increase public awareness. (Emphasis added)
- 405** *Racial Housing Segregation as a Determinant of Health and Public Access to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Data*  
Cites pending legislation to bar any federal funds to be used to support HUD-developed GIS tool to address housing discrimination called Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH). Also cites a proposed cut to HUD budget. Calls on AMA to oppose racial housing discrimination and to continue funding of AFFH and other similar tools used to track and enforce fair housing act.
- 406** *Support for Public Health Violence Prevention Programs*  
Cites proposed Fed legislation to fund a specific evidence-based public health violence prevention program through grants; and calls on AMA to support this and other evidence-based public health programs.
- 408** *Ending Money Bail to Decrease Burden on Lower Income Communities*  
Call on AMA to support awareness, legislation that ends bail for individuals charged with nonviolent crimes.
- 411** *Reporting Child Abuse in Military Families*  
Calls on AMA to support better reporting between state and federal-run child protective services; specifically for states to report suspected abuse to the DoD Family Advocacy Program. *Please note this reviewer's conflict of interest: employer sells software to Child Welfare Agencies to facilitate communication.*
- 412** *Reducing the Use of Restrictive Housing in Prisoners with Mental Illness*  
Calls for AMA to advocate for ending solitary confinement for inmates with mental illness.
- 414** *Sex Education Materials for Students with Limited English Proficiency*  
Add to existing AMA policy on sex ed the following clause: “include culturally competent materials that are language concordant for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) pupils;”
- 415** *Reducing Gun Violence in America*  
Reaffirm current policy, work with other organizations to end ban on CDC’s research, study the literature and report back at the interim 2018 with findings and recommendations for further advocacy to reduce gun violence.
- 417** *Reducing Disparities in Obstetric Outcomes, Maternal Morbidity, and Prenatal Care*  
Calls on AMA to encourage research on identifying barriers and developing strategies toward the implementation of evidence-based practices in ethnic minorities to prevent disease conditions that contribute to poor obstetric outcomes, maternal morbidity and maternal mortality. *Could this be strengthened by specifically advocating for the NIH to fund this translational research?*
- 418** *A Guide for Best Health Practices for Seniors Living in Retirement Communities*  
Calls on AMA to collaborate with public health, geriatric specialties, and AARP to life safety codes for senior independent living facilities.
- 422** *School Drinking Water Quality Testing, Monitoring, and Maintenance*

Add the following to current policy: “Our AMA supports the creation and implementation of standardized protocols and regulations pertaining to water quality testing, reporting and remediation to ensure the safety of water in schools and child care centers.”

**423 *Grill Brush Warning***

Calls on AMA to advocate for regulators to require warning label on wire grill brushes.

**424 *Rape and Sexual Abuse on College Campuses***

Calls on AMA to evaluate the issues of rape, sexual and physical abuse on colleges and the role state medical societies and AMA can play in helping to improve situation.

**426 *Decrease Adolescent Mortality Through More Comprehensive Graduated Driver Licensing Programs***

Calls for new AMA policy to support enactment of more comprehensive Graduated Driver Licensing programs consistent with NIH and US DoT best practices.

**428 *LGBTQIA+ Inclusive Sex Education Alongside Heterosexual Sex Education***

Calls on AMA to update the policy on Sex Ed, Violence Prevention, Abstinence, and Distribution of Condoms in Schools to mandate inclusive sexuality education.

**421 *Product Date Labels***

Calls on AMA to endorse federally standardized food expiration dates as opposed to industry voluntary standards so as not to confuse consumers and waste food. *A key public health issue impacting billions. Now, if only we can get those expiration dates printed larger...*

**429 *E-Cigarette Ingredients***

New AMA policy to require a complete list of ingredients on its packaging, in the order of prevalence and accurate nicotine content on package.

**432 *Legal Action to Compel FDA to Regulate E-Cigarettes***

Directs AMA to join in an amicus brief supporting the American Academy of Pediatrics legal action to compel FDA to take action to effectively regulate e-cigarettes, cigars and other nicotine tobacco products.

**433 *Firearm Safety***

Modify AMA policy to include: “ban the sale and ownership to the American public of all assault-type weapons, bump stocks and related devices, high capacity magazines of more than 10 bullets, and high-velocity and armor piercing bullets.” Also, “Require the licensing of owners of firearms including completion of a required safety course and registration of all firearms.: Also, support local law enforcement rulings on “concealed carry,” provisions for “gun violence restraining orders” by the courts, and “red flag laws” – all with due process.

<b>CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DENIAL</b>
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**416 *Medical Respite Care for Homeless Adults***

Calls for study on funding, implementation, and evaluation of new, non-clinical Medicaid benefit for homeless recipients. *Under current global waivers, states are free to do this but few have. Community mental health services are already covered under Medicaid. Perhaps a better policy solution is improved collaboration and referral to existing housing assistance rather than using limited Medicaid funds which could better go to needed therapeutic modalities.*

## RESOLUTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

### **401 *Danger from Bright Vehicle Headlights***

Directs AMA to study dangers of bright headlights and mitigating technologies (automated steering and automated windshield tinting); and advocate for mandatory H to L light switching. *Directs advocacy for a specific technology before results of the study.*

### **403 *School Safety and Mental Health***

New policy: AMA promote the implementation of school-based mental health screening and therapy programs *to reduce school-based firearm violence.* (Emphasis added.) *Increasing mental health services is a public health good on its own merit; but no evidence that enhanced screening would work to identify potential shooters or prevent shootings. Concern about unintended consequences re: student privacy and stigmatization.*

### **407 *Support for Research of Boxes for Babies' Sleeping Environment***

Cites state policies advocating use of Baby Box™ to prevent SUID and AAP concerns over a lack of safety research and “insufficient data on the role cardboard boxes play in reducing infant mortality.” Calls on AMA to support the research of safe sleeping environment programs. *Is this a call for primary research (beyond AMA capabilities) or for AMA to review the current literature?*

### **409 *Food Advertising Targeted to Black and Latino Youth Contributes to Health Disparities***

Call on AMA to support legislation, awareness & regulation that limits marketing of junk food toward youth *from vulnerable populations.* (Emphasis added). *Why not all kids? Not sure if it is feasible or legal to limit adds to selected populations.*

### **410 *Opposition to Measures that Criminalize Homelessness***

Calls on AMA to oppose measures that prohibit sitting or sleeping in public spaces and calls for AMA to advocate for legislation that requires non-discrimination e.g. homeless bills of rights. *Does this preclude appropriate health and safety regulation?*

### **413 *Improving Safety and Health Code Compliance in School Facilities***

Calls on AMA to support the development and implementation of guidelines for school safety and health code compliance inspections and a reporting system. *AMA needs to work through appropriate state and local authorities; collaborate with NACCHO, NALBOH, ASTHO (as well as the professional organizations representing school boards and administrators). Existing public policy likely exists and we do not want to reinvent the wheel. Is there a risk of diverting needed scarce educational funds to compliance.*

### **419 *[Gun] Violence Prevention***

Calls on AMA to advocate for a permit for sale of rapidly-firing semi-automatic firearms; study options for removing guns from those who are a danger to themselves and others; and study options for mental health reporting systems and patient privacy laws to facilitate better data sharing. *Does the 3<sup>rd</sup> clause presume that the blame for gun violence is on people being treated within the mental health system? Is there an unintended risk of worsening stigmatization.*

### **420 *Mandatory Influenza Vaccination on Policies for Healthcare Workers***

Calls AMA to enact new policy that no health care worker should be fired due solely to their refusal to be vaccinated for influenza.” *Could be made more palatable if new policy also encouraged healthcare facilities to enact policies requiring unvaccinated healthcare employees to wear a mask during all patient encounters for the entire flu season.*

### **425 *Hospital Food Labeling***

Add to current policy the following:” Our AMA hereby calls for hospital cafeterias and inpatient meal menus to publish nutrition information similar to what is being required for chain restaurants.” *Consider striking “inpatient meals” as there are a variety of acute nutritional and therapeutic needs to consider besides obesity (such as addressing cachexia).*

- 427** ***Support Gun Buyback Programs in Order to Reduce the Number of Circulating Unwanted Firearms***  
Calls for new AMA policy that supports gun buyback programs. *Has this reached the level of evidence-based policy? If not perhaps calling for study of effectiveness?*
- 430** ***Vector-Borne Diseases***  
New policy directing AMA to study and issue white paper emerging vector borne outbreaks (including currently available and effectiveness of testing and treatment standards). Also, “AMA advocate for local, state and national research, education, reporting, and tracking on vector-borne diseases.” *Could be strengthened by friendly amendment calling for Federal funding to support state and local health departments to implement this last clause*
- 431** ***Low Nicotine Cigarette Product Standard***  
New policy calling on AMA to develop a report on low nicotine standard for cigarettes and make recommendations on scientific criteria for selection of a nicotine standard that is non-addictive, regulatory compliance strategies and how a low-nicotine standard should work with other nicotine products. *On surface seems to contradict current AMA policy that opposes low nicotine products’ health claims, but may be appropriate strategic response to current FDA policy.*