

International Medical Graduates Section

Summary of Actions

AMA House of Delegates 2007 June Annual Meeting Chicago

1. Resolution 1 – License Reciprocity – AMA IMG Section

Resolution 1 asked:

That our American Medical Association support national legislation which would mandate licensing reciprocity by all state licensing authorities (New HOD Policy);

That our AMA propose a "medical license reciprocity system" to establish formal agreements among state medical boards and report back the progress to the House of Delegates in one year (Directive to Take Action); and

That our AMA urge the state legislatures and the Federation of State Medical Boards to require that state medical boards implement a "medical license reciprocity system." (Directive to Take Action)

IMG Congress Action: The Congress voted not to send Resolution 1 to the House of Delegates.

2. Resolution 3 – Denial of Medical Licensure to Qualified International Medical Graduates – Praveen Korivi, MD

Resolution 3 asked:

That our American Medical Association oppose any state medical board's decision to deny a medical license to an international medical graduate based on his or her medical school or other arbitrary reasons; and be it further (Reaffirm Policy);

That our American Medical Association work collaboratively with the Federation of State Medical Boards to encourage state medical boards to reevaluate denials of licensure based upon graduating from an international medical school; (Directive to Take Action);

That our American Medical Association and its IMG Section collect data from physicians who have been denied a state medical license due to international medical school discrimination; (Directive to Take Action)

That our American Medical Association strongly encourage all state medical boards to include international medical graduates and other minorities on its board to ensure all perspectives and opinions are reflected in their decisions and that it mirrors the current physician workforce; and, (Directive to Take Action)

That our American Medical Association assist state medical associations in seeking legislative remedies to address the denial of licensure based on discriminatory and arbitrary items such as graduating from an international medical school. (Directive to Take Action)

IMG Congress Action: The Congress voted not to send Resolution 3 to the House of Delegates.

Reference Committee B

3. Resolution 204 – The Residency Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2007

Resolution 204, introduced by the Florida Delegation, asked that our American Medical Association vigorously support in its national legislative activities the passage of S.588 and H.R.1093, “The Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2007,” by the US Congress, which will increase physician residency positions throughout many states while not undermining existing physician residency positions in any of the states.

That our American Medical Association vigorously support in its national legislative activities the passage of pending and future legislation ~~S.588 and H.R.1093, “The Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act of 2007,”~~ by the US Congress, which will increase physician residency positions throughout many states while not undermining existing physician residency positions in any of the states.

HOD ACTION: Resolution 204 adopted as amended.

Reference Committee C

4. Resolution 308 – Observerships for International Medical Graduates

Resolution 308 asks our AMA, in cooperation with the IMG Section, to pursue the development of a model observership program and develop a campaign to educate physicians, residency program directors and hospital administrators about how to integrate and utilize the program within their systems.

HOD ACTION: Resolution 308 referred.

5. Resolution 313 - Evaluating The Effects of Physician Workforce Increases

Resolution 313, introduced by the American Academy of Pediatrics, asked that our AMA to conduct an independent study of the potential effects of a 30% increase in U.S. medical school enrollment on the graduate medical education system, specialty selection, and workforce planning.

HOD ACTION: Resolution 313 not adopted.

6. Resolution 316 - English Skills Testing and the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Continuum

Resolution 316, introduced by the Michigan Delegation, asks AMA to seek a change in the United States Medical Licensing Examination that would allow a candidate who fails the English proficiency portion to take an alternative spoken English proficiency test approved by the National Board of Medical Examiners and not be required to retake the entire USMLE.

HOD ACTION: Resolution 316 not adopted.

7. Resolution 319 - International Medical Graduates and Medical Professionalism

Resolution 319, introduced by the Massachusetts Delegation, asks our AMA to commission an analysis of the “Institute on Medicine as a Profession” Survey of Medical Professionalism regarding international medical graduates and medical professionalism.

HOD ACTION: Resolution 319 not adopted.

8. Resolution 322 – Alternative Funding for Graduate Medical Education

Resolution 322 was considered with the following Resolutions that related to graduate medical education caps and funding:

- Resolution 314 - Increasing Flexibility In Graduate Medical Education Funding
- Resolution 315 – Support Lifting Medicare Cap On Graduate Medical Education Funding
- Resolution 317 - Medicare Reduction In Graduate Medical Education Payment
- Resolution 323 – CMS to Continue To Pay For Graduate Medical Education Through Medicaid
- Resolution 324 – Removal Of The Cap On Graduate Medical Education Positions
- Resolution 325 – Protecting Graduate Medical Education: Revisiting The All-Payer System

Resolution 322 asks the following:

That our American Medical Association, in cooperation with its International Medical Graduates (IMG) Section, pursue the development of a model observership program, which can serve as a blueprint for observership activities throughout the US (Directive to Take Action); and

That our AMA, in cooperation with its IMG Section, develop a campaign to educate physicians, residency program directors and hospital administrators about how to integrate and utilize an observership program within their systems. (Directive to Take Action)

HOD ACTION: Substitute Resolution 314, with amended Resolve 7, adopted in lieu of Resolutions 314, 315, 317, 322, 323, 324 and 325 with change in title as follows:

THE PRESERVATION, STABILITY AND EXPANSION OF FULL FUNDING FOR GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

RESOLVED, That our AMA oppose regulatory and legislative efforts that reduce funding for GME from the full scope of resident educational activities that are designated by residency programs for required for the accreditation of residency programs and the board certification of their graduates (e.g. didactic teaching, community service, off-site ambulatory rotations, etc.). (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

Resolution 314, Increasing Flexibility in Graduate Medical Education Funding, introduced by the American Academy of Pediatrics, asks our AMA to work to achieve improved flexibility in graduate medical education funding to defray the costs of rotations in underserved and underrepresented areas that take place outside of a residency's sponsoring institution.

Resolution 315, Support Lifting Medicare Cap on Graduate Medical Education Funding, introduced by the Michigan Delegation, asks our AMA to address the issue of the impending physician shortage, seek to increase graduate medical education slots, and explore alternative full funding mechanisms for those slots. The Resolution also asks AMA to seek federal legislation to lift the Medicare cap on GME full funding and preserve Medicare and Medicaid full funding of GME until a stable alternative full funding source can be established.

Resolution 317, Medicare Reduction in Graduate Medical Education Payment, introduced by the Illinois Delegation, asks our AMA to endorse and support the Association of American Medical Colleges' position to recommend against any further reduction in Medicare financial support of graduate medical education. The Resolution also asks our AMA to work with the American Hospital Association and all hospitals with GME programs against any further reduction in Medicare financial support of GME.

Resolution 322, Alternative Funding for Graduate Medical Education, introduced by the International Medical Graduates Section, asks our AMA to work with the ACGME and other stakeholders to explore alternative funding in addition to the public funding for Graduate Medical Education. The Resolution further asks our AMA to seek legislative means to lift the Medicare cap on Graduate Medical Education positions.

Resolution 323, CMS to Continue to Pay for Graduate Medical Education through Medicaid, introduced by the Section on Medical Schools, asks our AMA to lobby for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to continue to provide matching funds for Graduate Medical Education through the Medicaid Program.

Resolution 324, Removal of the Cap on Graduate Medical Education Positions, introduced by the Section on Medical Schools, ask our AMA to lobby the Centers for

Medicare and Medicaid Services and the U.S. Congress to lift the caps on the Graduate Medical Education positions in order to train more physicians.

Resolution 325, Protecting Graduate Medical Education: Revisiting the All-Payer System, introduced by the Resident and Fellow Section, asks our AMA to reaffirm its policy on support of an all-payer system for GME. The Resolution further asks our AMA to work with other stakeholders to actively lobby the current Congress for legislation requiring all payers to contribute towards Graduate Medical Education and to continue to lobby to protect Medicare and Medicaid Graduate Medical Education payments and report back at the 2008 Annual Meeting.

Reference Committee D:

9. Resolution 407 – Health Impacts of High Fructose Corn Syrup

Resolution 407 asked:

That our American Medical Association urge the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) to require the food industry to use non-fructose sweeteners and limit the use of high fructose syrups in their products (Directive to Take Action); and

That our AMA urge the FDA and the USDA to require the food industry to clearly label products containing high fructose syrups with an indication that "this product contains high fructose syrup; excessive intake of high fructose syrup may lead to obesity." (Directive to Take Action)

HOD Action: Resolution 407 referred.

Reference Committee F:

10. Resolution 613 – Israeli Medical Association

Resolution 613 asked that our American Medical Association, in solidarity with our colleagues in Israel, oppose any efforts to expel the Israeli Medical Association from the World Medical Association. (Directive to Take Action)

HOD Action: Resolution 613 adopted as amended.

11. Resolution 614 - IMG Representation in the AMA House of Delegates

Resolution 614 asked that our American Medical Association shall implement an equitable and proportionate representation of the AMA-IMG membership in its House of Delegates by adding one IMG Delegate per 5,000 AMA-IMG members.

HOD Action: Resolution 614 referred with report back at A-08 meeting.

Reference Committee G

12. RESOLUTION 730 - Safeguard NPI and Physician Privacy

Resolution 730, introduced by an IMG Section member, asked that our AMA work with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to mandate the use of only the last 4 digits of the NPI (as is common in the banking industry) for the protection of physician privacy, on publicly accessible websites, in published lists, and electronically communicated documents and faxes

HOD ACTION: Resolution 730 referred for decision.