Whereas, The Department of Homeland Security has announced a “zero tolerance” policy that requires that all unlawful border crossers be referred to the Department of Justice for prosecution as a misdemeanor of illegal entry, including parents seeking asylum from persecution who enter the U.S. with their children; and

Whereas, These children will be treated as if they were “unaccompanied minors,” separated from their parents and sent into facilities administered by the federal government; and

Whereas, A policy of universally separating children from their parents entering U.S. borders will do great harm to children, their parents, and their families; and

Whereas, Childhood trauma and adverse childhood experiences create negative health impacts that will last an individual’s entire lifespan; and

Whereas, Families seeking refuge in the U.S. already endure emotional and physical stress, and separating family members from each other only serves to dramatically exacerbate that stress; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association urge the Department of Homeland Security, Attorney General Sessions, and President Trump to withdraw its new policy to require separation of children from their parents, and instead, give priority to supporting families and protecting the health and well-being of the children within those families. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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