Whereas, The dangers of wire-bristle grill brushes have been documented; and

Whereas, The study, “Epidemiology of Wire-Bristle Grill Brush Injury in the United States, 2002-2014” published in the SAGE Journals American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery on March 1, 2016, estimated that between 2002-2014, more than 1,600 emergency department visits occurred as a result of wire-bristle brush injuries; and

Whereas, Most people using wire-bristle grill brushes are likely not aware of the potential risk from bristles that break off and adhere to the grill; and

Whereas, These bristles can stick to the food being cooked and then accidentally ingested; and

Whereas, “Depending on the site of injury, multiple specialties--including emergency medicine, radiologists, otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, and general surgery--may be involved in the care of these patients”; and

Whereas, A lack of awareness can result in a delay in diagnosis and medical complications; and

Whereas, Ingested wire-bristles can become a surgical emergency; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association request that the appropriate federal agency require the placement of a warning label on all wire-bristle grill brushes informing consumers about the possibility of wire bristles breaking off and being accidentally ingested.

(Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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Sources: