Whereas, In one study, 84 percent of the patients surveyed reported that they were not aware that several medications contained ingredients derived from pork and/or beef; and

Whereas, Approximately 63 percent of patients wanted their physicians, and 35 percent of the patients wanted their non-physician health care providers (e.g., pharmacists, nurses, etc.), to inform them when using such medications; and

Whereas, In the same study, approximately 70 percent of physicians were unaware that several medications contain ingredients that might be against their patients’ religion, and 70 percent thought that it was important to inform their patients if such drugs were prescribed; and

Whereas, The animal origin of some drugs may not always be known to staff prescribing or administering these drugs; and

Whereas, A pilot study suggests that both patients and physicians think that patients should be informed whenever medications that contain pork- and/or beef-derived products are prescribed; and

Whereas, In a multicultural context, it is essential that prescribers have a minimal level of awareness of patients’ religious sensitiveness so that these can be considered when prescribing; and

Whereas, In one study, patients with religious prohibitions against consumption of pork and/or beef products might stop their medications when prescribed those with pork- and beef-derived gelatin and/or stearic acid; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support efforts to improve cultural awareness pertaining to the use of animal-derived medications when considering different prescription options (New HOD Policy); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA encourage the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to make available to the public an easily accessible database that identifies medications containing ingredients derived from animals. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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