Whereas, The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention has documented facts about physician depression and suicide¹; and

Whereas, Physicians have higher rates of burnout, depressive symptoms, and suicide risk than the general population; and

Whereas, Physicians and trainees can experience high degrees of mental health distress, and are less likely than other members of the public to seek mental health treatment²; and

Whereas, Psychologists and psychiatrists have received feedback from physician patients that they are reluctant to call national or local suicide hotlines³; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association study a safety net, such as a national hotline, that all United States physicians and physician assistants can call when in a suicidal crisis. Such safety net services would be provided by doctorate level mental health clinicians experienced in treating physicians (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA advocate that funding for such safety net program be sought from such entities as foundations, hospital systems, medical clinics, and donations from physicians and physician assistants. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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