Whereas, Over 420,000 children are within the foster care system according to the most recent data from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services;¹ and

Whereas, A 2014 study indicates 48.3% of children within the foster care system experience four or more adverse family experiences, and these traumatic experiences lead to and include being removed from one’s home;² and

Whereas, Adults who had a history of being in the foster care system had significantly higher rates than the general population of post-traumatic stress disorder and toxic stress-related symptoms, such as attachment disorders, affect dysregulation, and behavior control issues;³,⁴ and

Whereas, Toxic stress and childhood trauma can impact a child’s immune system, neurodevelopment, and genome resulting in delays in cognitive, behavioral, and physical development, in addition to leading to poor health outcomes into adulthood, such as alcoholism, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, depression, cancer, obesity, increase in suicide attempts, and ischemic heart disease;³,⁵,⁶,⁷,⁸ and

Whereas, Children within the foster system face unique legal and social barriers including limited healthcare records, difficulty in identifying who can consent to care for the child, court mandated treatments, and limited resources;⁹,¹⁰,¹¹,¹² and

Whereas, Screenings, such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire, can double the detection rate of developmental delay and lead to earlier intervention among children in foster care;¹³ and

Whereas, The American Academy of Pediatrics identifies fifteen Models of Care which can be used for further creation of foster care clinics;\textsuperscript{14} and

Whereas, Existing foster care clinics, while limited in number, provide coordination of care, screenings regarding normal development, and transition support for the child and foster families;\textsuperscript{14,15} therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate for comprehensive and evidence-based care that addresses the specific health care needs of foster care children. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 09/20/17

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Child Protection Legislation H-60.948
Promoting Physician Awareness of the Correlation Between Domestic Violence and Child Abuse D-515.982

\textsuperscript{14} American Academy of Pediatrics. Healthy Foster Care America-Models of Care, \url{https://www.aap.org/en-us/advocacy-and-policy/aap-health-initiatives/healthy-foster-care-america/Pages/ModelSearch.aspx}