

# AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 404  
(A-19)

Introduced by: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire,  
Rhode Island, Vermont

Subject: Shade Structures in Public and Private Planning and Zoning Matters

Referred to: Reference Committee D  
(Diana Ramos, MD, Chair)

Whereas, Malignant melanoma is now the fifth most common cancer in the United States, and its incidence has increased 33-fold since 1935, with sun exposure being the principle cause;<sup>1, 2, 3, 4</sup> and

Whereas, The Surgeon General's "Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer" of 2014<sup>5</sup> concisely outlined the magnitude of the public health problem which skin cancer represents in this country, and recommended multiple strategies to decrease the risk of this preventable cancer, including special attention to the provision of shade structures in the planning of public and private spaces; and

Whereas, Shade structures are often treated as accessory buildings in planning and zoning matters, and this can result in the denial of reasonable shade protection in public and private spaces; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support sun shade structures (such as awnings, gazebos and other structures providing shade) in the planning of public and private spaces, as well as in zoning matters and variances in recognition of the critical importance of sun protection as a public health measure. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than \$1,000.

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## References

1. CA Cancer J Clin 2010; 60: 277-300
2. CA Cancer J Clin 2008; 58: 71-96
3. Skin Cancer Foundation Journal Vol 29; 65-67
4. CA Cancer J Clin 1998; 48: 232
5. The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer 2014