

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 023  
(A-19)

Introduced by: Texas

Subject: Distribution and Display of Human Trafficking Aid Information in Public Places

Referred to: Reference Committee on Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws  
(William Reha, MD, MBA, Chair)

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1 Whereas, Human trafficking is slavery, including both labor and sex trafficking, and involves  
2 people of every age, gender, race/ethnicity, nationality, immigration status, and sexual  
3 orientation; and

5 Whereas, Human trafficking represents one of the most insidious and seemingly invisible public  
6 health challenges; and

8 Whereas, The National Human Trafficking Hotline has reported cases of human trafficking in  
9 every state, and since 2007 has reported nearly 19,000 cases in California, Texas, Florida,  
10 New York, and Ohio alone; and

12 Whereas, The National Human Trafficking Hotline recently reported more than 5,000 cases  
13 nationwide in the first half of 2018; and

15 Whereas, Reports presented by the National Human Trafficking Hotline are not comprehensive  
16 reports on the scale or scope of human trafficking within the United States, and the actual  
17 number of victims is likely much higher; and

19 Whereas, Reports from the National Human Trafficking Hotline indicate a persistent need for  
20 community response in order to serve victims and survivors, respond to human trafficking  
21 cases, and share information and resources; and

23 Whereas, Physicians have a unique and critical role to play in preventing human trafficking, and  
24 identifying and treating its victims; and

26 Whereas, Victims and survivors of human trafficking may be seen at local clinics, emergency  
27 departments, or other medical settings, and the health care team's actions at that moment can  
28 make a lifesaving difference; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association adopt as policy that readily visible signs,  
31 notices, posters, placards, and other readily available educational materials providing  
32 information about reporting human trafficking activities or providing assistance to victims and  
33 survivors be permitted in local clinics, emergency departments, or other medical settings (New  
34 HOD Policy); and be it further

- 1 RESOLVED, That our AMA, through its website or internet presence, provide downloadable  
2 materials displaying the National Human Trafficking Hotline number to aid in displaying such  
3 information in local clinics, emergency departments, or other medical settings and advocate that  
4 other recognized medical professional organizations do the same (Directive to Take Action);  
5 and be it further
- 6
- 7 RESOLVED, That our AMA urge the federal government to make changes in laws to advocate  
8 for the broad posting of the National Human Trafficking Hotline number in areas such as local  
9 clinics, emergency departments, and other medical settings. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 05/24/19

## RELEVANT AMA POLICY

### **Physicians Response to Victims of Human Trafficking H-65.966**

1. Our AMA encourages its Member Groups and Sections, as well as the Federation of Medicine, to raise awareness about human trafficking and inform physicians about the resources available to aid them in identifying and serving victims of human trafficking.

Physicians should be aware of the definition of human trafficking and of resources available to help them identify and address the needs of victims.

The US Department of State defines human trafficking as an activity in which someone obtains or holds a person in compelled service. The term covers forced labor and forced child labor, sex trafficking, including child sex trafficking, debt bondage, and child soldiers, among other forms of enslavement. Although it's difficult to know just how extensive the problem of human trafficking is, it's estimated that hundreds of thousands of individuals may be trafficked every year worldwide, the majority of whom are women and/or children.

The Polaris Project -

In addition to offering services directly to victims of trafficking through offices in Washington, DC and New Jersey and advocating for state and federal policy, the Polaris Project:

- Operates a 24-hour National Human Trafficking Hotline
- Maintains the National Human Trafficking Resource Center, which provides
  - a. An assessment tool for health care professionals
  - b. Online training in recognizing and responding to human trafficking in a health care context
  - c. Speakers and materials for in-person training
  - d. Links to local resources across the country

The Rescue & Restore Campaign -

The Department of Health and Human Services is designated under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act to assist victims of trafficking. Administered through the Office of Refugee Settlement, the Department's Rescue & Restore campaign provides tools for law enforcement personnel, social service organizations, and health care professionals.

cases of suspected human trafficking to appropriate authorities to provide a conduit to resources to address the victim's medical, legal and social needs.

Citation: (BOT Rep. 20, A-13; Appended: Res. 313, A-15

### **Human Trafficking / Slavery Awareness D-170.992**

Our AMA will study the awareness and effectiveness of physician education regarding the recognition and reporting of human trafficking and slavery.

Citation: Res. 015, A-18

### **Commercial Exploitation and Human Trafficking of Minors H-60.912**

Our AMA supports the development of laws and policies that utilize a public health framework to address the commercial sexual exploitation and sex trafficking of minors by promoting care and services for victims instead of arrest and prosecution.

Citation: Res. 009, A-17