Whereas, Across the country, less populated areas are being served by both not-for-profit and for-profit air medevac services; and

Whereas, Most communities in the US are serviced by land-based non-profit providers such as police or fire departments; and

Whereas, In urban communities, hospitals frequently offer air ambulance services while rural communities must rely heavily on privately owned medevac ambulance service companies; and

Whereas, For-profit companies compete with land-based companies might monitoring police and fire department emergency radio bands; and

Whereas, States face poor regulation of air and yields businesses overseeing by the FAA; and

Whereas, There is a concern about the excessive costs of the private medevac sector; and

Whereas, Research states that 60% of patients transported by air would not have suffered a lower standard of medical care if they had been transported by land; and

Whereas, Land-based services are less expensive and less dangerous; and

Whereas, Exorbitant, poorly regulated fees can leave a patient with an out-of-pocket bill of upwards of $40,000-$60,000 after insurance payments which has caused some patients to file bankruptcy; and

Whereas, Several states have introduced legislation to limit the predatory behaviors of private medevac companies but some states believe that legislation should be addressed at the federal level; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support federal legislation which would:

1. Establish an expedited independent dispute resolution system to resolve payment disputes between emergency air ambulance providers and health insurers; and

2. Ensure that such independent dispute resolution process would ensure the patient be “held harmless” except for applicable insurance policy in-network cost-sharing requirements. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined
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