Whereas, There is an epidemic of opioid abuse in America; and
Whereas, The efforts to combat that epidemic is to restrict the use of opioids; and
Whereas, Insurance companies and government programs restrict the off-label use of medications to Federal Drug Administration (FDA) approved indications and many current pain medications were not approved by the FDA for pain management or have a very narrow indication for pain treatment; and
Whereas, Many pharmacy benefit plans will not cover these medications, leaving a treatment gap for patients with pain; therefore be it RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association petition the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to allow reimbursement for off label use of medications like gabapentin or lidocaine patches at the lowest copayment tier for the indication of pain so that patients can be effectively treated for pain and decrease the number of opioid prescriptions written. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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