Whereas, Motor vehicle accidents are responsible for significant morbidity and mortality in the U.S. In 2015, there were 3,176 deaths in California alone; and

Whereas, Over 90% of all motor vehicle accidents are primarily attributable to driver error, and over 40% of fatal accidents involve substance use, fatigue, or a distracted driver; and

Whereas, Existing partially automated systems, such as autonomous emergency braking, demonstrably reduce the incidence of collision-related injury; and

Whereas, Fully autonomous vehicles have the potential to prevent a significant proportion of motor vehicle accidents by substantially reducing driver error, which could in turn reduce injury, death, healthcare resource utilization, and healthcare spending; and

Whereas, The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has voiced optimism for the potential of autonomous vehicles to play a significant role in improving transportation safety, and has published a guidance for the automobile industry accordingly; and

Whereas, Age-related loss in the ability to operate motor vehicles increases individuals’ risk for depression; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association monitor the development of autonomous vehicles, with particular focus on the technology’s impact on motor vehicle related injury and death (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA promote driver, pedestrian, and general street and traffic safety as key priorities in the development of autonomous vehicles. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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