Whereas, Much misleading information is contained in advertising of herbal remedies and dietary supplements; and

Whereas, Herbal remedies and dietary supplements are sold as food but advertised in such a way as to imply some therapeutic effect of their contents; and

Whereas, Americans spend billions of dollars each year on herbal remedies and dietary supplements in the hope that doing so will enhance their own good health in some way; and

Whereas, Herbal remedies and dietary supplements are not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration and consequently the identities of their ingredients, active or inactive, and their concentrations are mostly unknown; and

Whereas, Herbal remedies and dietary supplements are not subject to strict regulation, therefore they may or may not have the ingredients listed on the label; and

Whereas, Some herbal remedies and dietary supplements have been documented to have active medications not indicated on the label and some have been documented to contain toxic drugs; and

Whereas, Patients seeking relief of symptoms may turn to herbal remedies and dietary supplements before consulting a medical professional and thus delay the proper diagnosis and therapy for their condition; and

Whereas, Any merchandise that claims to have health benefits is not food; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association work with the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health (NCCIH), the federal agency responsible for oversight of herbal remedies and dietary supplements, to institute stricter guidelines for advertising and labeling of these products so that consumers will be informed of what they are purchasing (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, that our AMA support a licensing body through legislation for manufacturers of dietary supplements and herbal remedies, with the requirement that those manufacturers must supply proof that their products have health benefits (Directive to Take Action); and be it further
RESOLVED, That our AMA urge that the increased cost of a stricter NCCIH program on dietary supplements and herbal remedies be paid for by the manufacturers who produce them. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

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