

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 601
(I-19)

Introduced by: Medical Student Section

Subject: Amending AMA Policy G-630.140, "Lodging, Meeting Venues, and Social Functions"

Referred to: Reference Committee F
(_____, Chair)

Whereas, The seven regions of our AMA-MSS are a primary link between the national initiatives of our MSS and student members at the section level; and

Whereas, In the fall of 2018, our AMA started a pilot program hosting individual, geographically-separate MSS Region Meetings with the goal of strengthening Region cohesion, fostering inter-student mentorship, and enriching the student experience; and

Whereas, The pilot included geographically-separate MSS Region Meetings hosted in each individual Regions because of feedback received from 2015 to 2018, when all Region meetings were held simultaneously, in conjunction with Advocacy Day in Washington, DC; and

Whereas, During this period of time, MSS leadership and staff received reports that students had difficulty attending Region meetings due to financial constraints on travel to Washington, DC and the inflexibility of holding all Region meetings on one day; and

Whereas, Through the Region Meetings pilot program, six Regions planned and held Region Meetings between January and February 2019; and

Whereas, Region 3 was limited in organizing their Region Meeting due to AMA Policy G-630.140 Lodging, Meeting Venues, and Social Functions, which was amended at A-17 to ensure that future AMA-organized or -sponsored meetings do not take place in towns, cities, counties, or states with discriminatory policies; and

Whereas, G-630.140 with the amendment currently restricts the AMA from organizing or sponsoring meetings in Alabama, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Texas; and

Whereas, Based on the list of restricted states, Region 3 cannot hold Region meetings in four of their six states (Kansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas), and the two remaining states (Arkansas, Louisiana) are not centrally located; and

Whereas, Region 3 held their Region Meeting in Louisiana, and received multiple reports from students about the difficulty of attending the Region Meeting based on travel distance; and

Whereas, Based on the list of restricted states, Region 1 cannot hold meetings in South Dakota, Region 4 cannot hold meetings in three of their six states (Alabama, North Carolina, Tennessee), and Region 5 cannot hold meetings in Kentucky; and

Whereas, The AMA Board of Trustees in conjunction with AMA legal counsel determined that Region Meetings do not qualify for exemption from G-630.140 as a special circumstance; and

Whereas, While G-630.140 should be enforced for national meetings such as Annual and Interim to uphold the AMA's commitment to non-discrimination, enforcement for Region Meetings reduces participation in small gatherings for students who are financially and temporally limited in their ability to travel, especially in disproportionately affected Regions; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association amend Policy G-630.140, "Lodging, Meeting Venues, and Social Functions," be amended by addition to read as follows:

Lodging, Meeting Venues, and Social Functions, G-630.140

1. Our AMA supports choosing hotels for its meetings, conferences, and conventions based on size, service, location, cost, and similar factors.

2. Our AMA shall attempt, when allocating meeting space, to locate the Section Assembly Meetings in the House of Delegates Meeting hotel or in a hotel in close proximity.

3. All meetings and conferences organized and/or primarily sponsored by our AMA will be held in a town, city, county, or state that has enacted comprehensive legislation requiring smoke-free worksites and public places (including restaurants and bars), unless intended or existing contracts or special circumstances justify an exception to this policy, and our AMA encourages state and local medical societies, national medical specialty societies, and other health organizations to adopt a similar policy.

4. It is the policy of our AMA not to hold national meetings organized and/or primarily sponsored by our AMA, in cities, counties, or states, or pay member, officer or employee dues in any club, restaurant, or other institution, that has exclusionary policies, including, but not limited to, policies based on, race, color, religion, national origin, ethnic origin, language, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, disability, or age unless intended or existing contracts or special circumstances justify an exception to this policy.

5. Our AMA staff will work with facilities where AMA meetings are held to designate an area for breastfeeding and breast pumping. (Reaffirm HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note:

Received: 08/28/19

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Lodging, Meeting Venues, and Social Functions G-630.140

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Citation: Res. 2, I-87 Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, I-97 Res. 512, I-98 Consolidated: CLRPD Rep. 3, I-01 Reaffirmation A-04 Modified: CCB/CLRPD Rep. 3, A-12 Modified: CCB/CLRPD Rep. 2, A-13 Modified: BOT Rep. 17, A-17

Meeting Calendar and Locations G-600.130

AMA policy on the meeting calendar for the House includes the following: (1) Our AMA should make reasonable efforts to avoid scheduling future Annual Meetings that conflict with Father's Day weekend; (2) The Interim Meeting of the House of Delegates will be held in the second or third week in November; and (3) Our AMA supports scheduling more meetings in Washington, DC, specifically including Interim Meetings of the House on a rotating schedule as frequently as practicable. Our AMA believes, however, that it would not be financially prudent to hold all Interim Meetings in Washington, DC, nor would such a decision be equitable for other regions of the country.

Citation: BOT Rep. 1, I-90 BOT Rep. 36, A-94 BOT Report 1, I-98 Modified: Speakers Advisory Committee Rep., A-99 Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, I-00 Resolution 609, A-01 Consolidated: CLRPD Rep. 3, I-01 Appended: Res. 610, A-02 Appended: Res. 609, A-04 Reaffirmed in lieu of Res. 609, A-06 CC&B Rep. 3, I-08 CCB/CLRPD Rep. 3, A-12 Modified: Res. 606, A-16