

The following is a preliminary report of actions taken by the House of Delegates at its 2020 Special Meeting and should not be considered final. Only the Official Proceedings of the House of Delegates reflect official policy of the Association.

**AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
SPECIAL MEETING, JUNE 2020 (S-20)**

Report of Reference Committee F and Amendments to Constitution & Bylaws

Ann R. Stroink, MD, Chair

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1 Your reference committee recommends the following consent calendar for acceptance:  
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3 **RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION**  
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- 5 1. Board of Trustees Report 2 - New Specialty Organizations Representation in the  
6 House of Delegates  
7  
8 2. Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs Report 1 - CEJA's Sunset Review of 2010  
9 House Policies  
10  
11 3. Council on Medical Education Report 1 - Council on Medical Education Sunset Review  
12 of 2010 House of Delegates' Policies  
13

14 **RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION AS AMENDED**  
15

- 16 4. Board of Trustees Report 3 - AMA 2021 Dues  
17  
18 5. Board of Trustees Report 4 - Council on Legislation Sunset Review of 2008 and 2010  
19 House Policies  
20  
21 6. Council on Medical Service Report 1 - Council on Medical Service Sunset Review of  
22 2010 AMA House Policies  
23  
24 7. Council on Science and Public Health Report 1 - CSAPH Sunset Review of 2010  
25 House of Delegates Policies  
26

27 **RECOMMENDED FOR FILING**  
28

- 29 8. Board of Trustees Report 1 - Annual Report

## RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION

- 1  
2 (1) BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT 2 – NEW SPECIALTY  
3 ORGANIZATIONS REPRESENTATION IN THE HOUSE OF  
4 DELEGATES

5  
6 **RECOMMENDATION:**

7  
8 **Recommendation in Board of Trustees Report 2 be adopted**  
9 **and the remainder of the report be filed.**

10  
11 **HOD ACTION: Recommendation in Board of Trustees Report 2**  
12 **adopted and the remainder of the report be filed.**

13  
14 The Board of Trustees recommends that the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology and the  
15 Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography be granted representation in the AMA  
16 House of Delegates and that the remainder of the report be filed.

17  
18 Your Reference Committee received very limited, but positive, testimony related to new  
19 specialty organization representation in the House of Delegates. Therefore, your Reference  
20 Committee recommends that Board of Trustees Report 2 be adopted and welcomes the  
21 American Society of Nuclear Cardiology and the Society of Cardiovascular Computed  
22 Tomography to the House of Delegates.

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25  
26 (2) COUNCIL ON ETHICAL AND JUDICIAL AFFAIRS REPORT 1 –  
27 CEJA'S SUNSET REVIEW OF 2010 HOUSE POLICIES

28  
29 **RECOMMENDATION:**

30  
31 **Recommendation in Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs**  
32 **Report 1 be adopted and the remainder of the Report be filed.**

33  
34 **HOD ACTION: Recommendation in Council on Ethical and**  
35 **Judicial Affairs Report 1 adopted and the remainder of the**  
36 **report be filed.**

37  
38 The Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs recommends that the House of Delegates policies  
39 that are listed in the Appendix to this report be acted upon in the manner indicated and the  
40 remainder of this report be filed.

41  
42 Your Reference Committee received minimal comments related to this report and therefore  
43 recommends that Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs Report 1 be adopted.

1 (3) COUNCIL ON MEDICAL EDUCATION REPORT 1 - COUNCIL  
2 ON MEDICAL EDUCATION SUNSET REVIEW OF 2010 HOUSE  
3 OF DELEGATES' POLICIES  
4

5 **RECOMMENDATION:**  
6

7 **Recommendation in Council on Medical Education Report 1**  
8 **be adopted and the remainder of the Report be filed.**  
9

10 **HOD ACTION: Recommendation in Council on Medical**  
11 **Education Report 1 amended by addition to read as follows**  
12 **and the remainder of the report be filed:**  
13

14 **That the House of Delegates policies listed in the**  
15 **Appendix to this report be acted upon in the manner**  
16 **indicated, with the exception of Policy D-383.996,**  
17 **which should be retained, and the remainder of the**  
18 **report be filed.**  
19

20 The Council on Medical Education recommends that the House of Delegates policies listed in  
21 the appendix to this report be acted upon in the manner indicated and the remainder of this  
22 report be filed.  
23

24 Your Reference Committee received minimal comments related to this report. Your Reference  
25 Committee would like to highlight that the report commented that an AMA section would be  
26 asked to review policy H-220.996 to consider an updated version, if needed. The Organized  
27 Medical Staff Section noted that they would be happy to look at this issue with colleagues in  
28 the Academic Physicians Section and the Private Physician Caucus and submit a resolution  
29 in November should one be warranted; we thank them. Therefore, your Reference Committee  
30 recommends that Council on Medical Education Report 1 be adopted.

## RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION AS AMENDED

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2 (4) BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT 3 – AMA 2021 DUES  
3

4 **RECOMMENDATION A:**  
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6 **Recommendation in Board of Trustees Report 3 be amended**  
7 **by the addition of an additional recommendation to read as**  
8 **follows:**  
9

10 **The Board of Trustees recommends that our AMA**  
11 **disseminate and provide broad, prominent, and easy access**  
12 **to information on the financial hardship exemption.**  
13

14 **RECOMMENDATION B:**  
15

16 **Board of Trustees Report 3 be adopted as amended and**  
17 **the remainder of the Report be filed.**  
18

19 **HOD ACTION: The recommendations in Board of Trustees**  
20 **Report 3 adopted as amended and the remainder of the report**  
21 **filed.**  
22

23 The Board of Trustees recommends expanding the number of years over which young  
24 physician dues rates increase to the full \$420 rate. The new recommended rates increase  
25 over four years, from \$60 to \$420 versus the current two-year period, which better aligns with  
26 career and financial situations. All other dues rates remain unchanged. The Board of Trustees  
27 recommends that the following be adopted and that the remainder of this report be filed:  
28

29 Regular Members	\$ 420
30 Physicians in Their Fourth Year of Practice	\$ 315
31 Physicians in Their Third year of Practice	\$ 210
32 Physicians in Their Second Year of Practice	\$ 105
33 Physicians in Their First Year of Practice	\$ 60
34 Physicians in Military Service	\$ 280
35 Semi-Retired Physicians	\$ 210
36 Fully Retired Physicians	\$ 84
37 Physicians in Residency Training	\$ 45
38 Medical Students	\$ 20

39  
40 Your Reference Committee received several comments related to the proposed four-year  
41 phase in of dues for those entering medical practice. The majority of the comments were in  
42 support of the new dues structure for physicians in early practice. Many commenters noted,  
43 however, the unprecedented challenges many physicians are currently facing because of the  
44 COVID-19 pandemic. Your Reference Committee recognizes that the pandemic has created  
45 incalculable stress on the financial viability of many physician practices and notes that the  
46 dues paying capacity of many individual physicians might be limited in the coming year. Your  
47 Reference Committee also notes testimony provided by the Board of Trustees that they  
48 understand the economic impact the pandemic is having on colleagues, the profession, and  
49 organized medicine. The Board also stated that the AMA has a financial hardship policy in

1 place for individuals that were members in the prior year and request a financial hardship dues  
2 exemption for the current year. The Board and the AMA have committed that they will ensure  
3 this policy and the standard financial hardship form are included prominently on the AMA  
4 join/renew website. Therefore, your Reference Committee recommends that Board of  
5 Trustees Report 3 be adopted as amended and applauds the commitment from the Board to  
6 provide easy access to financial hardship exemption information.

7  
8  
9  
10 (5) BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT 4 – COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION  
11 SUNSET REVIEW OF 2008 AND 2010 HOUSE POLICIES

12  
13 **RECOMMENDATION A:**

14  
15 **Recommendation in Board of Trustees Report 4 be**  
16 **amended by addition to read as follows:**

17  
18 **That the House of Delegates policies listed in Appendix 1**  
19 **to this report be acted upon in the manner indicated, with**  
20 **the exception of Policy D-120.961, which should be**  
21 **retained as amended below and changed to an H-policy,**  
22 **and the remainder of the report be filed.**

23  
24 **Personal Medication and Medical Supplyies in Times of**  
25 **Disaster**

26 **Our AMA urges continued dialogue with the appropriate**  
27 **federal agencies, ~~to convene a meeting of~~ medical**  
28 **societies, health care organizations, and other**  
29 **appropriate stakeholders to: (a) ~~develop a national plan~~**  
30 **~~to~~ ensure timely distribution of and access to**  
31 **medications for acute and chronic medical conditions in**  
32 **a disaster; (b) issue guidance to health professionals and**  
33 **the public on the appropriate stockpiling of medications**  
34 **for acute and chronic medical conditions in a disaster or**  
35 **other serious emergency; and (c) deliberate the design,**  
36 **feasibility, and utility of a universal mechanism, ~~which~~**  
37 **that provides the essential health and medical supplies**  
38 **and information that can assist emergency medical**  
39 **responders and other health care personnel with the**  
40 **provision of medical care and assistance in a disaster or**  
41 **other serious emergency.**

42  
43 **RECOMMENDATION B:**

44  
45 **Board of Trustees Report 4 be adopted as amended.**

46  
47 **HOD ACTION: The recommendation in Board of Trustees**  
48 **Report 4 adopted as amended and the remainder of the report**  
49 **filed.**

1 The Board of Trustees recommends that the House of Delegates policies listed in Appendix  
2 1 to this report be acted upon in the manner indicated and the remainder of this report be filed.

3  
4 Your Reference Committee received a small number of comments related to the policies  
5 addressed in Board of Trustees Report 4, The Council on Legislation Sunset Review of 2008  
6 and 2010 Policies. Many of the comments received were related to policy D-120.961,  
7 “Personal Medication Supply in Times of Disaster.” Commenters noted that this policy is still  
8 relevant and should be retained and updated. The Council on Legislation noted agreement  
9 with retaining this policy. Your Reference Committee agrees, and notes that the amendments  
10 alter this policy from a directive to an enduring House policy. Therefore, your Reference  
11 Committee recommends that Board of Trustees Report 4 be adopted as amended.

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14  
15 (6) COUNCIL ON MEDICAL SERVICE REPORT 1 - COUNCIL ON  
16 MEDICAL SERVICE SUNSET REVIEW OF 2010 AMA HOUSE  
17 POLICIES

18  
19 **RECOMMENDATION A:**

20  
21 **Recommendation in Council on Medical Service Report 1**  
22 **be amended by addition to read as follows:**

23  
24 **That the House of Delegates policies listed in the**  
25 **Appendix to this report be acted upon in the manner**  
26 **indicated, with the exception of Policy H-235.966, which**  
27 **should be retained, and the remainder of the report be**  
28 **filed.**

29  
30 **RECOMMENDATION B:**

31  
32 **Council on Medical Service Report 1 be adopted as**  
33 **amended.**

34  
35 **HOD ACTION: The recommendation in Council on Medical**  
36 **Service Report 1 adopted as amended and the remainder of**  
37 **the report filed.**

38  
39 The Council on Medical Service recommends that the policies listed in the appendix to this  
40 report be acted upon in the manner indicated and the remainder of the report be filed.

41  
42 Your Reference Committee received several comments related to policy H-235.966, “CMS  
43 Regulation to Eliminate the Critical Role of the Hospital Medical Staff.” Many noted the  
44 importance of this policy to ensure a strong, organized medical staff and maintain patient  
45 safety and quality. Additionally, your Reference Committee engaged in considerable  
46 discourse related to additional comments related to several policies and feels that many of  
47 the recommendations are best addressed by the submission of new resolutions for upcoming  
48 meetings. Your Reference Committee believes that such resolutions would be particularly  
49 salient for an advocacy-focused meeting in November, as many of the proposed modifications  
50 go beyond the intended purpose of a sunset report. Your Reference Committee therefore  
51 recommends that Council on Medical Service Report 1 be amended.

1 (7) COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT 1 -  
2 CSAPH SUNSET REVIEW OF 2010 HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
3 POLICIES

4  
5 **RECOMMENDATION A:**

6  
7 **Recommendation in Council on Science and Public**  
8 **Health Report 1 be amended by addition to read as**  
9 **follows:**

10  
11 **That the House of Delegates policies listed in the**  
12 **Appendix to this report be acted upon in the manner**  
13 **indicated, with the exception of Policy H-20.920 and**  
14 **Policy H-455.983, which should be retained as amended**  
15 **below, and the remainder of the report be filed.**

16  
17 **H-20.920, "HIV Testing"**

18 **(6) ~~Voluntary~~ Opt-out HIV Testing**

- 19 a) ~~Voluntary~~ Opt-out HIV testing should be provided  
20 with informed consent for individuals who may have  
21 come into contact with the blood, semen, or vaginal  
22 secretions of an infected person in a manner that  
23 has been shown to transmit HIV infection. Such  
24 testing should be encouraged for patients for whom  
25 the physician's knowledge of the patient's  
26 serostatus would improve treatment. ~~Voluntary~~ Opt-  
27 out HIV testing should be regularly provided for the  
28 following types of individuals who give an informed  
29 consent: (i) patients at sexually transmissible  
30 disease clinics; (ii) patients at drug abuse clinics;  
31 (iii) individuals who are from areas with a high  
32 incidence of AIDS or who engage in high-risk  
33 behavior and are seeking family planning services;  
34 and (iv) patients who are from areas with a high  
35 incidence of AIDS or who engage in high-risk  
36 behavior requiring surgical or other invasive  
37 procedures;
- 38 b) The prevalence of HIV infection in the community  
39 should be considered in determining the likelihood  
40 of infection. If ~~voluntary~~ opt-out HIV testing is not  
41 sufficiently accepted, the hospital and medical staff  
42 may consider requiring HIV testing.

43 **(7) Mandatory HIV Testing**

- 44 a) Our AMA opposes mandatory HIV testing of the  
45 general population;
- 46 b) Mandatory testing for HIV infection is recommended  
47 for (i) ~~all entrants into federal and state prisons;~~ (ii)  
48 military personnel; (iii) (ii) donors of blood and  
49 blood fractions; breast milk; organs and other  
50 tissues intended for transplantation; and semen or  
51 ova for artificial conception;

- 1 c) **All entrants into federal and state prisons should be**  
2 **offered HIV screening, but it should only be**  
3 **mandatory when risk factors are present;**  
4 d) **Our AMA will review its policy on mandatory testing**  
5 **periodically to incorporate information from studies**  
6 **of the unintended consequences or unexpected**  
7 **benefits of HIV testing in special settings and**  
8 **circumstances.**

9  
10 **H-455.983, “Radiographic Contrast Media”**

- 11 **(1) Third party payers should provide full reimbursement**  
12 **for the use of the contrast media which is deemed**  
13 **medically necessary by the physician.**  
14 **(2) Avoidance of waste in the use of contrast media**  
15 **should be encouraged.**  
16 **(3) The development and implementation by hospitals of**  
17 **procedures and policies to help ensure that nonionic**  
18 **contrast media are used when medically appropriate**  
19 **should be supported.**

20  
21 **RECOMMENDATION B:**

22  
23 **Council on Science and Public Health Report 1 be**  
24 **adopted as amended.**

25  
26 **HOD ACTION: The recommendation in Council on Science and**  
27 **Public Health Report 1 adopted as amended and the**  
28 **remainder of the report filed.**

29  
30 **The Council on Science and Public Health recommends that the House of Delegates policies**  
31 **listed in the Appendix to this report be acted upon in the manner indicated and the remainder**  
32 **of the report be filed.**

33  
34 **Your Reference Committee received several comments related to Council on Science and**  
35 **Public Health Report 1. Some comments were related to H-425.980, “Screening and Early**  
36 **Detection of Prostate Cancer.” Your Reference Committee agrees that screening for prostate**  
37 **cancer is an important men’s health issue and also recognizes and agrees with the rationale**  
38 **of the Council on Science and Public Health – that because of the possibility of age change**  
39 **for testing and the next review for this policy in 10 years, they recommend removing the**  
40 **portion referring to specific ages and for the policy to remain broadly relevant. Questions were**  
41 **also raised about the accuracy of the ages included in the policy; it was noted that the ages**  
42 **currently listed are not up-to-date with current recommendations. Your Reference Committee**  
43 **agrees with the original recommendation of the Council on Science and Public Health.**

44  
45 **A comment was submitted regarding Policy H-20.920, “HIV Testing.” Your Reference**  
46 **Committee agrees that these amendments are friendly, strengthen the policy, and modernize**  
47 **the policy to include updated language as specified by experts from the Infectious Diseases**  
48 **Society of America. Your Council on Science and Public Health also agrees that these**  
49 **changes modernize the policy and supports the language but notes that further refinement of**  
50 **this important policy may be warranted in the near future.**

- 1 Your Reference Committee also notes the comment related to Policy H-455.983,
- 2 “Radiographic Contrast Media” and agrees that the statement should include all medically
- 3 appropriate contrast media. Therefore, your Reference Committee recommends that Council
- 4 on Science and Public Health Report 1 be amended.

**RECOMMENDED FOR FILING**

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(8) BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT 1 - ANNUAL REPORT

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Board of Trustees Report 1 be filed.**

**HOD ACTION: Board of Trustees Report 1 filed.**

Informational report – no recommendations. The Consolidated Financial Statements for the years ended December 31, 2019 and 2018 and the Independent Auditor’s report have been included in a separate booklet, titled “2019 Annual Report.”

Your reference committee received no testimony in response to the Board of Trustees Report 1. The number of AMA dues paying members increased in 2019, achieving nine years of consecutive growth in membership.

- 1 This concludes the report of Reference Committee F and Amendments to Constitution &
- 2 Bylaws. I would like to thank Jerry P. Abraham, MD, MPH; David J. Bensema, MD; Michael
- 3 D. Chafty, MD; JD, Lynda G. Kabbash, MD; Candace E. Keller, MD, MPH; A. Lee
- 4 Morgan, MD, and all those who provided comments to the Committee.

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Jerry P. Abraham, MD, MPH  
California

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Lynda G. Kabbash, MD (Alternate)  
American Academy of Allergy, Asthma &  
Immunology

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David J. Bensema, MD  
Kentucky

---

Candace E. Keller, MD, MPH  
American Society of Anesthesiologists

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Michael D. Chafty, MD, JD  
Michigan

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A. Lee Morgan, MD  
Colorado

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Ann R. Stroink, MD  
Congress of Neurological Surgeons  
Chair