

SUBJECT TO RESOLUTION COMMITTEE REVIEW

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 211
(November 2020)

Introduced by: American Academy of Family Physicians, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, Infectious Diseases Society of America, Oregon

Subject: Creating a Congressionally-Mandated Bipartisan Commission to Examine the U.S. Preparations for and Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic to Inform Future Efforts

Referred to: Reference Committee B

1 Whereas, The United States has been the apparent epicenter of the global COVID-19 pandemic
2 and subsequent concerns arising about the United States' capabilities to mount a strategically
3 formulated and concerted response with regards to: effective testing strategies, timely directives
4 on appropriate utilization of social distancing directives, evidence-supported efforts to maintain
5 strategic stockpiles of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and ventilators; and
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7 Whereas, Due to the complex interplay of local, state, and national agencies in pandemic
8 response, traditional academic institutions may not have the authority or resources to acquire all
9 information needed to effectively study and evaluate the United States' preparedness and
10 immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
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12 Whereas, In recent historic national crisis - namely the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks -
13 congressional leaders established the 9-11 commission which was an independent bipartisan
14 effort to prepare a full and complete account of the circumstances surrounding the
15 September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, including preparedness for and the immediate response to
16 the attacks; and
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18 Whereas, Commissioning a similar broad-reaching task force under the direction of
19 The United States Congress to complete a comprehensive review and report on the
20 United States' preparedness and immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic will inform
21 preparation and response to future pandemics; therefore be it
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23 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate for passage of federal legislation
24 to create a congressionally-mandated bipartisan commission composed of scientists, physicians
25 with expertise in pandemic preparedness and response, public health experts, legislators and
26 other stakeholders, which is to examine the U.S. preparations for and response to the
27 COVID-19 pandemic, in order to inform future public policy and health systems preparedness
28 (Directive to Take Action); and be it further
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30 RESOLVED, That, in advocating for legislation to create a congressionally-mandated bipartisan
31 commission, our AMA seek to ensure key provisions are included, namely that the delivery of a
32 specific end product (i.e., a report) is required by the commission by a certain period of time,
33 and that adequate funding be provided in order for the commission to complete its deliverables.
34 (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Modest - between \$1,000 - \$5,000
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