WHEREAS, The United States has sought to provide asylum for individuals being persecuted in other countries and has instituted laws and policies to achieve this goal equitably for all peoples of the world; and

WHEREAS, Haitians seeking asylum have often experienced discrimination in seeking asylum because of the inaccurate media narrative of an association of AIDS to Haitians; and

WHEREAS, The CDC in 1990 changed its policy on AIDS and Haitians thus removing the false narrative on AIDS and Haitians; and

WHEREAS, Haitians seeking asylum in the United States continue to experience adverse outcomes in their applications for asylum based on inaccurate narratives and media bias; and

WHEREAS, Recent activities at the US border with Mexico have focused heavily on denying entry to Haitians seeking escape from the violence in their native country and returning them to Haiti; and

WHEREAS, Our AMA has many policy statements on health disparities, racial discrimination and equality but no policy specific to the matter adversely affecting Haitian asylum seekers; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association oppose discrimination against Haitian asylum seekers which denies them the same opportunity to attain asylum status as individuals from other nations. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than $1,000

Received: 03/22/22

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Support of Human Rights and Freedom H-65.965
Our AMA: (1) continues to support the dignity of the individual, human rights and the sanctity of human life, (2) reaffirms its long-standing policy that there is no basis for the denial to any human being of equal rights, privileges, and responsibilities commensurate with his or her individual capabilities and ethical character because of an individual's sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or transgender status, race, religion, disability, ethnic origin, national origin, or age; (3) opposes any discrimination based on an individual's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion, disability, ethnic origin, national origin or age and any other such reprehensible policies; (4) recognizes that hate crimes pose a significant threat to the public health and social welfare of the citizens of the United States, urges expedition passage of appropriate hate crimes prevention legislation in accordance with our AMA's policy through letters to members of Congress; and registers support for hate crimes prevention legislation, via letter, to the President of the United States.

Citation: CCB/CLRDPD Rep. 3, A-14; Reaffirmed in lieu of: Res. 001, I-16; Reaffirmation: A-17