

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 016
(A-22)

Introduced by: Women Physicians Section

Subject: Addressing and Banning Unjust and Invasive Medical Procedures among Migrant Women at the Border

Referred to: Reference Committee on Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws

- 1 Whereas, In October 2020, at least 57 women in a Georgia Immigration and Customs
2 Enforcement detention center said they were forced or pressured into having gynecological
3 procedures¹; and
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5 Whereas, Women stated they were threatened with retaliation if they pushed back on
6 recommended procedures, even in cases where their original complaints were non-
7 gynecological²; and
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9 Whereas, As of December 2020, 40 more women had submitted claims of abuse and unwanted
10 invasive medical procedures³; and
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12 Whereas, There has been no follow up since it was first reported in 2020 and since the
13 members of Congress asked for it to be further investigated in 2021⁴; and
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15 Whereas, It is important that the AMA recognize these atrocious crimes and stand firmly against
16 them; therefore be it
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18 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association condemn the performance of
19 nonconsensual, unnecessary, invasive medical procedures (Directive to Take Action); and
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21 RESOLVED, That our AMA advocate against forced sterilizations of any kind, including against
22 migrant women in detention facilities, and advocate for appropriate associated disciplinary
23 action (including license revocation) (Directive to Take Action); and
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25 RESOLVED, That our AMA advocate for safer medical practices and protections for migrant
26 women. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 05/04/22

References:

1. <https://www.thecut.com/2020/10/migrant-women-detail-medical-abuse-forced-hysterectomies.html>
2. <https://www.proquest.com/openview/10e623a1a27dee0d92080671a61c060b/1?pq-origsite=gscholar&cbl=2043523>
3. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/29/us/ice-hysterectomies-surgeries-georgia.html>
4. <https://time.com/6049998/ice-end-use-detention-centers-georgia-detention-hysterectomy-allegations/>
5. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/dec/22/ice-gynecologist-hysterectomies-georgia>
6. <https://homeland.house.gov/news/press-releases/homeland-security-and-oversight-committees-release-update-on-georgia-ice-facility-investigation-inquire-on-dhs-action-to-protect-migrants>

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Care of Women and Children in Family Immigration Detention H-350.955

1. Our AMA recognizes the negative health consequences of the detention of families seeking safe haven.
2. Due to the negative health consequences of detention, our AMA opposes the expansion of family immigration detention in the United States.
3. Our AMA opposes the separation of parents from their children who are detained while seeking safe haven.
4. Our AMA will advocate for access to health care for women and children in immigration detention.
5. Our AMA will advocate for the preferential use of alternatives to detention programs that respect the human dignity of immigrants, migrants, and asylum seekers who are in the custody of federal agencies.

Citation: Res. 002, A-17; Appended: Res. 218, A-21

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