WHEREAS, Skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and nursing facilities (NFs), assisted living facilities (ALFs), and continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs) that incorporate a combination of NFs, SNFs and ALFs with independent living communities (ILFs), are the senior living communities (SLCs) where our nation’s most vulnerable older and disabled people reside; and

WHEREAS, Residents of SLCs are frail and functionally impaired, and often find it difficult to access clinical care at traditional venues such as outpatient clinics and ambulatory centers, and this lack of access to care results in unnecessary utilization of urgent care, emergency departments and hospitals, where older persons are prone to developing adverse outcomes; and

WHEREAS, SLCs, especially NFs, SNFs and ALFs are highly regulated by federal and state governments, and the average primary care physician (PCP) does not venture to practice in these care settings in part due to lack of familiarity with such regulations and difficulty in complying with them; and

WHEREAS, Primary care training for medical students and residents requires exposure to various care settings, including outpatient clinics, emergency rooms and hospitals, exposure to SLCs has not been required by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), thereby deepening the disconnect between PCPs and our vulnerable elderly patients; and

WHEREAS, Specialty training in geriatric medicine is a part of medical school and primary care residency programs, clinical care of our most vulnerable and frail patients in the SLC setting is not required by ACGME during such training; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic and other healthcare crises and natural disasters have proven it valuable for all clinicians to be familiar with all common healthcare settings, and especially PALTC due to the unique nature of the care setting and our frail older and disabled residents; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate to require training of medical students and residents in senior living communities (to include nursing homes and assisted living facilities) during their primary care rotations (internal medicine, family medicine and geriatric medicine). (Directive to Take Action)