AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 619
(A-22)

Introduced by: Texas, South Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, New Jersey, Pennsylvania

Subject: Focus and Priority for the AMA House of Delegates

Referred to: Reference Committee F

Whereas, The speakers of the American Medical Association House of Delegates established a Resolutions Committee for the 2021 Special Meeting; and

Whereas, The Resolutions Committee will streamline and increase the efficiency of the business of the house; and

Whereas, Resolution 605, Nov. 21, was referred to the Board of Trustees for study with a verbal request for a report back at the 2022 Annual Meeting, and no report has been issued; and

Whereas, The number of resolutions submitted to our AMA continues to remain very high; and

Whereas, Our AMA needs to prioritize and focus to develop policy and act on the issues that are pertinent and important to practicing physicians; that require urgent attention; on which our AMA is the appropriate organization to lead; on which an AMA stance would have a positive impact; that have not been considered previously and voted down; or about which good AMA policy does not already exist; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Resolutions Committee be formed as a standing committee of the house, the purpose of which is to review and prioritize all submitted resolutions to be acted upon at the annual and interim meetings of the AMA House of Delegates (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the membership of the Resolutions Committee be composed of one Medical Student Section (MSS) member, one Resident and Fellow Section (RFS) member, and one Young Physicians Section (YPS) member, all appointed by the speakers through nominations of the MSS, RFS, and YPS respectively; six regional members appointed by the speakers through nominations from the regional caucuses; six specialty members appointed by the speakers through nominations from the specialty caucuses; three section members appointed by the speakers through nominations from sections other than the MSS, RFS, and YPS; and one past president appointed by the speakers (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the Resolutions Committee serve staggered two-year terms except for the past president and the MSS and RFS members, who shall serve a one-year term (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That members of the Resolutions Committee cannot serve more than four years consecutively (Directive to Take Action); and be it further
RESOLVED, That if a Resolutions Committee member is unable or unwilling to complete his or her term, the speakers will replace that member with someone from a similar member group in consultation with that group the next year, and the new member will complete the unfulfilled term (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That each member of the Resolutions Committee confidentially rank resolutions using a 0-to-5 scale (0 – not a priority to 5 – top priority) based on scope (the number of physicians affected), urgency (the urgency of the resolution and the impact of not acting), appropriateness (whether AMA is the appropriate organization to lead on the issue), efficacy (whether an AMA stance would have a positive impact), history (whether the resolution has been submitted previously and not accepted), and existing policy (whether an AMA policy already effectively covers the issue). Resolutions would not have to meet all of these parameters nor would these parameters have to be considered equally (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the composite (or average) score of all members of the Resolutions Committee be used to numerically rank the proposed resolutions. No resolution with a composite average score of less than 2 would be recommended for consideration. The Resolutions Committee would further determine the cutoff score above which resolutions would be considered by the house based on the available time for reference committee and house discussion, and the list of resolutions ranked available for consideration would be titled “Resolutions Recommended to be Heard by the HOD” (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Resolutions Committee also make recommendations on all resolutions submitted recommending reaffirmation of established AMA policy and create a list titled “Resolutions Recommended for Reaffirmation,” with both lists presented to the house for acceptance (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the membership of the Resolutions Committee be published on the AMA website with a notice that the appointed members should not be contacted, lobbied, or coerced; any such activity must be reported to the AMA Grievance Committee for investigation; and should the alleged violations be valid, disciplinary action of the offending person will follow (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That the bylaws be amended to add the Resolution Committee as a standing Committee with the defined charge, composition, and functions as defined above for all AMA HOD meetings effective Interim 2022. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than $1,000 assuming the resolution committee would not convene in person.

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