Whereas, The earthquake that hit Turkey on February 6, 2022, left 45,000 people dead and over a million homeless; and

Whereas, The Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation estimates the total cost of the earthquake is $84 billion, including $34 billion in immediate damage, which represents 4% of the country’s annual economic output; and

Whereas, Hundreds of International Medical Graduates (IMGs) from Turkey have matched into residency and fellowship positions, or are currently practicing physicians in many medical and surgical specialties in the United States; and

Whereas, Immigration status is being increasingly recognized as a social determinant of health, contributing to making the Turkish IMG immigrant population vulnerable, that is at increased risk for psychological, social health outcomes, and financial distress, which can significantly impact performance at work; and

Whereas, Bereavement, mental distress from losing family members and friends, financial difficulty while providing support to relatives in devastated areas in Turkey, and inability to provide immediate assistance to populations in dire need of help, are unique at this time for this population; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association publicly recognize and express its support to immigrant physicians and trainees from Turkey; (Directive to Take Action) and be it

RESOLVED, That our AMA acknowledge and address interpersonal and acute systemic factors that negatively affect Turkish IMGs and their families; (Directive to Take Action) and be it

RESOLVED, That our AMA affirm its support and advocate for immigrant physicians and trainees working in the United States when their country of origin faces major humanitarian crises, to promote an understanding of the challenges specific to immigrant physicians (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA support the development and implementation of channels of communication for immigrant physicians to share their personal and professional journey when facing severe destruction, humanitarian crises, or personal losses in their country of origin,
contributing therefore to improving the understanding of the difficulties faced by immigrant physicians. (Directive to Take Action)

References: