RESOLUTION 417 – TREATING SOCIAL ISOLATION AND LONELINESS AS A SOCIAL DRIVER OF HEALTH

RECOMMENDATION A:

The fourth Resolve of Resolution 417 be amended by addition and deletion to read as follows:

RESOLVED, That our AMA work with other interested entities to develop toolkits tools and resources to help clinicians identify and address social isolation and loneliness as a social driver of health (Directive to Take Action);

RECOMMENDATION B:

Resolution 417 be adopted as amended.

HOD ACTION: Resolution 417 adopted as amended.

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association develop educational programs for healthcare professionals and the lay public regarding the significance of social isolation and loneliness to include promoting social connections through community-based programs and encouraging social participation through volunteering, civic engagement, and community service (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA promote enhancing access, including transportation, to health and social services (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA encourage research to assess how forming networks earlier in life helps to reduce loneliness and social isolation for adults, with a special focus on marginalized populations and communities with limited access to resources (New HOD Policy); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA develop toolkits to help clinicians identify and address social isolation and loneliness as a social driver of health (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA work collaboratively with state medical societies, community-based organizations, social service agencies, and public health departments to promote social connections and enhance social support for patients. (Directive to Take Action)

Your Reference Committee heard testimony in support of Resolution 417. This resolution builds on existing AMA policy identifying loneliness as a public health issue with consequences for physical and mental health. This resolution outlines a comprehensive approach toward combating social isolation and loneliness through research, education, and advocacy. An amendment was proffered to the fourth Resolve clause noting that our AMA should include working with other interested parties addressing this issue. Your Reference Committee agrees that there are opportunities for collaboration and recommends that Resolution 417 be adopted as amended.