WHEREAS, the medical system in the United States involves a market-like environment with a charity mission; and

WHEREAS, for profit insurance companies have taken over much of the health care system, with most of their profits directed to private entities outside of our health system; and

WHEREAS, many of the tactics for making a profit include strategies which complicate the provision of medical care for both the patient and the physician; and

WHEREAS, the Dutch health care system is recognized as a successful health care system using a market-type multi-payer system which utilizes not-for-profit cooperatives whose profits are allocated to reserves or returned in the form of lower premiums; and

WHEREAS, Medicare and Medicaid, which are government owned health insurance agencies, contract with insurance companies to operate aspects of the medical care delivery; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association advocate that government-owned health agencies such as Medicare and Medicaid be required to contract only with not-for-profit insurance companies or cooperatives (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, that our AMA support that those not-for-profit insurance companies or cooperatives receiving public revenues must allocate profits to reserves, investments in improving the quality of care in the system, or returned in the form of lower premiums for patients or the health agency. (New HOD Policy).

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than $1,000

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