Introduced by: Minority Affairs Section

Subject: Support for a Native Medical School in the United States

Referred to: Reference Committee C

Whereas, According to our own AMA’s study, Native medical students are among the most underrepresented in medicine;¹ and

Whereas, A 2022 National Center for Health Statistics report finds that the life expectancy of a Native newborn is 10.3 years shorter than that of a White baby and 16.5 years shorter than an Asian baby;² and

Whereas, A 2020 study found that racial concordance between physicians and newborns significantly reduced Black infant mortality in Florida, where the Black infant mortality rate is three times that of Whites;³ and

Whereas, Historically Black Colleges and Universities with medical schools are credited with increasing the confidence and sense of belonging for Black students,⁴ among many other accomplishments; and

Whereas, Indigenous people thrived on this land for thousands of years before formation of the US, with deeply rooted ways of healing that helped sustain a population of five million people, which varied between Tribes but principally had a more wholistic approach to health than allopathic medicine;⁵ and

Whereas, A coalition of Native physicians is exploring the formation of a Native allopathic medical school in the US with three goals, 1) to meet accreditation requirements while incorporating Indigenous healing approaches, 2) to increase the number of Native medical students and therefore physicians, and 3) to reduce health inequities leading to significantly shorter life expectancy by increasing concordance between Native patients and physicians; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association support the formation of a Native medical school in the United States through appropriate advocacy channels (e.g., collaboration with key stakeholders, press release(s), support during regulatory approval process, etc.). (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than $1,000

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References