

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 3
(I-22)

Introduced by: International Medical Graduates Section

Subject: Immigration Status Is a Public Health Issue

Referred to: Reference Committee ____

1 Whereas, There are 47 million foreign-born residents in the U.S. in 2022 (14.3% of the
2 population) being the largest number ever recorded; and
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4 Whereas, The Census Bureau projects the foreign-born share of the U.S. population to continue
5 to increase reaching 69 million by 2060; and
6

7 Whereas, Immigration status is being increasingly recognized as a social determinant of health
8 identifying the immigrant population as a vulnerable population that is at increased risk for poor
9 physical, psychological and social health outcomes, and inadequate healthcare; and
10

11 Whereas, Poor health outcomes among immigrants are not only dependent on socioeconomic
12 characteristics, but often determined by factors that are unique for this population – language
13 barriers, difficulty navigating the healthcare system, stigmatization, marginalization, and
14 discrimination within the healthcare system, inability to have medical coverage, poor
15 understanding of specific immigrants' health challenges by health professionals; and
16

17 Whereas, Healthcare inequities among immigrants include not only personal medical services
18 but also public health services and programs; for example, immunizations, often due to
19 institutional, structural, and systemic factors; therefore, be it
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21 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association declare that immigration status is a public
22 health issue that requires a comprehensive public health response and solution (Directive to
23 Take Action); and be it
24

25 RESOLVED, That our AMA recognize interpersonal, institutional, structural, and systemic
26 factors that negatively affect immigrants' health (Directive to Take Action); and be it
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28 RESOLVED, That our AMA promote the development and implementation of educational
29 resources for healthcare professionals to better understand health and healthcare challenges
30 specific for the immigrant population (Directive to Take Action); and be it further
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32 RESOLVED, That our AMA support the development and implementation of public health
33 policies and programs that aim to improve access to healthcare and minimize systemic health
34 barriers for immigrant communities. (Directive to Take Action)

References:

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3. McDaniel, P. H. J. R. X. D. B. | J. (2020b, October 25). Immigrant Health is Public Health. Public Health Post. <https://www.publichealthpost.org/research/immigrant-health-is-public-health/>
4. Castañeda, H., Holmes, S. M., Madrigal, D. S., Young, M. E. D., Beyeler, N., & Quesada, J. (2015, March 18). Immigration as a Social Determinant of Health. Annual Review of Public Health, 36(1), 375–392. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-032013-182419>
5. Derose, K. P., Escarce, J. J., & Lurie, N. (2007, September). Immigrants And Health Care: Sources Of Vulnerability. Health Affairs, 26(5), 1258–1268. <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.26.5.1258>
6. Hill, J., Rodriguez, D. X., & McDaniel, P. N. (2021). Immigration status as a health care barrier in the USA during COVID-19. Journal of Migration and Health, 4, 100036. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jmh.2021.100036>
7. Swift, J. (2021, November 17). Immigration Status: A Political Determinant of Health. Gender Policy Report. <https://genderpolicyreport.umn.edu/immigration-status-a-political-determinant-of-health/>
8. Immigrant, Refugee, and Migrant Health | Immigrant and Refugee Health | CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/about-irmh.html>

Fiscal Note: Minimal – less than \$1,000

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RELEVANT AMA POLICY
None

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