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 __

Whereas, There are 47 million foreign-born residents in the U.S. in 2022 (14.3% of the population) being the largest number ever recorded; and

Whereas, The Census Bureau projects the foreign-born share of the U.S. population to continue to increase reaching 69 million by 2060; and

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

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

Whereas, Healthcare inequities among immigrants include not only personal medical services but also public health services and programs; for example, immunizations, often due to institutional, structural, and systemic factors; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association declare that immigration status is a public health issue that requires a comprehensive public health response and solution (Directive to Take Action); and be it

RESOLVED, That our AMA recognize interpersonal, institutional, structural, and systemic factors that negatively affect immigrants’ health (Directive to Take Action); and be it

RESOLVED, That our AMA promote the development and implementation of educational resources for healthcare professionals to better understand health and healthcare challenges specific for the immigrant population (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA support the development and implementation of public health policies and programs that aim to improve access to healthcare and minimize systemic health barriers for immigrant communities. (Directive to Take Action)
References:

Fiscal Note: Minimal – less than $1,000

Received: xx/xx/22

RELEVANT AMA POLICY
None
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