

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 305  
(I-23)

Introduced by: American Association of Public Health Physicians

Subject: Addressing Burnout and Physician Shortages for Public Health

Referred to: Reference Committee C

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1 Whereas, there is a clear inadequacy in the number of physicians trained in preventive medicine  
2 within the United States, posing a challenge to meeting the healthcare needs of both the  
3 immediate and long-term population<sup>1</sup>; and  
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5 Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced the imminent  
6 closure of its Preventive Medicine Residency program, slated to take effect on July 1, 2024<sup>2</sup>;  
7 and  
8

9 Whereas, a noticeable gap in Public Health physician training and funding has surfaced, often  
10 requiring a smaller number of remaining physicians to assume the roles vacated by their  
11 departing colleagues; and  
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13 Whereas, a significant knowledge deficit exists among practicing physicians, especially those in  
14 training, regarding the public health implications of climate change, despite the escalating  
15 frequency of climate-related events; and  
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17 Whereas, a core curriculum of preventive medicine residencies encompasses training in  
18 assessing and responding to population-level risks associated with environmental health, as  
19 well as the planning and evaluation of the medical components of emergency preparedness  
20 programs and training exercises<sup>3</sup>; and  
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22 Whereas, the CDC is grappling with substantial funding challenges, directly impacting the  
23 functioning of state and local health departments<sup>4</sup>; and  
24

25 Whereas, according to a Medscape report Public Health and Preventive Medicine burnout has  
26 increased from last year's report<sup>5</sup> and given the factors that cause burnout will only continue to  
27 get worse along with our other physician specialty colleagues; and  
28

29 Whereas, nationally about 63% of physicians report burnout symptoms at least once per week<sup>6</sup>;  
30 and  
31

32 Whereas, 41% of public health executives, many of whom are physicians, report feeling bullied,  
33 threatened, or harassed<sup>7</sup>; and  
34

35 Whereas, 59% public health executives report "I have felt my public health expertise  
36 undermined or challenged"<sup>8</sup>; and  
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38 Whereas, nearly a third of the public health workforce plan to leave in the next year for reasons  
39 other than retirement<sup>9</sup>; and

40 Whereas, addressing physician burnout has been unequivocally placed as a top priority for our  
41 AMA as an integral part of our AMA Recovery plan for American's Physician; therefore be it  
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43 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association vigorously advocate for expanded training  
44 opportunities within residency programs, encompassing both preventive medicine residencies  
45 and public health physician training, in addition to advocating for increased funding and  
46 heightened federal support to address the repercussions of natural disasters (Directive to Take  
47 Action); and be it further

48 RESOLVED, that our AMA steadfastly supports the allocation of state and national funds aimed  
49 at fortifying the roles of public health physicians, including Public Health and General Preventive  
50 Medicine Residency programs in multiple federal Public Health agencies (New HOD Policy);  
51 and be it further

52 RESOLVED, that our AMA unequivocally calls for the reinstatement of the CDC Preventive  
53 Medicine Residency program or Fellowship, as the CDC is the nation's premier public health  
54 agency. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Modest - between \$1,000 - \$5,000

Received: 9/27/23

#### REFERENCES

1. Journal of Public Health Management & Practice, Ricketts, et al., "The Supply and Demand of the Preventive Medicine Physician Workforce" pp. s116-s122, May/June 2021, Volume 27, number 3.
2. Preventive Medicine Residency and Fellowship (PMR/F) | CDC. accessed September 24, 2023
3. Program Requirements and FAQs and Applications (acgme.org)
4. <https://www.cnn.com/2023/07/14/health/cdc-funding-cuts-debt-deal/index.html>
5. <https://www.medscape.com/slideshow/2023-lifestyle-public-health-6016098#4>
6. [https://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196\(22\)00515-8/fulltext](https://www.mayoclinicproceedings.org/article/S0025-6196(22)00515-8/fulltext) accessed 9/26/2023
7. <https://test-de-beaumont-foundation.pantheonsite.io/phwins/2021-findings/stress-and-burnout/>
8. <https://test-de-beaumont-foundation.pantheonsite.io/phwins/2021-findings/stress-and-burnout/>
9. [https://test-de-beaumont-foundation.pantheonsite.io/phwins/2021-findings/stress-and-burnout](https://test-de-beaumont-foundation.pantheonsite.io/phwins/2021-findings/stress-and-burnout/)

#### RELEVANT AMA POLICY

##### **D-440.922 Full Commitment by our AMA to the Betterment and Strengthen of Public Health System**

Our AMA will: (1) champion the betterment of public health by enhancing advocacy and support for programs and initiatives that strengthen public health systems, to address pandemic threats, health inequities and social determinants of health outcomes; (2) develop an organization-wide strategy on public health including ways in which the AMA can strengthen the health and public health system infrastructure and report back regularly on progress; (3) work with the Federation and other stakeholders to strongly support the legal authority of health officials to enact reasonable, evidence-based public health measures, including mandates, when necessary to protect the public from serious illness, injury, and death and actively oppose efforts to strip such authority from health officials; and (4) advocate for (a) consistent, sustainable funding to support our public health infrastructure, (b) incentives, including loan forgiveness and debt reduction, to help strengthen the governmental public health workforce in recruiting and retaining staff, (c) public health data modernization and data governance efforts as well as efforts to promote interoperability between health care and public health; and (d) efforts to ensure equitable access to public health funding and programs. Res.407,1-20 Modified CSPH Rep.2,I-21 Reaffirmed CMS Rep 5, A-22

##### **H-440.965 The Future of Public Health**

The AMA (1) encourages all its members to reevaluate and renew their commitment to working cooperatively with public health officials; and (2) urges its members to utilize this commitment to strengthen the quality of the delivery of public health services and to insure quality health care for all citizens within their communities. Res 82,I-88 ,Reaffirmed: sunset Report, I-98 Reaffirmed : CSCPH Rep2, A=08 Reaffirmed : CSAPH rep. 01,A-18

**H-440.982 Center for Disease Control Funding**

The AMA supports funding for the Centers for Disease Control that is adequate to support its important and expanding public health activities. BOT Rep.Q,I-83 Reaffirmed CLRPD Rep 1,I-93 Reaffirmed: CSA Rep8, A-o5, Reaffirmation A-15, Reaffirmed CSAPHRep 1,A-15

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