Whereas, the introduction of online testimony so far has been viewed as a successful way to increase participation in the resolution process; and

Whereas, online testimony is not being fully utilized because of a perception that online testimony does not influence the recommendations of the reference committees and that in-person testimony carries more weight; and

Whereas, this perception would be most easily reversed if each reference committee issued an interim report that serves as a “working final report” of its recommendations for each resolution rather than a mere summary of the testimony submitted; and

Whereas, interim reports would enable the authors of a resolution to identify areas of disagreement and work with others to write alternative language to be submitted and discussed at the hearing; and

Whereas, interim reports would also help make the in-person hearings more efficient by eliminating the need for testimony by those who agree with the interim recommendations; and

Whereas, interim reports would increase the likelihood that the recommendations in the final report are agreeable to the HOD, reducing the need for extractions and wordsmithing on the floor; and

Whereas, several state medical associations already use interim reports and have seen the benefits outlined above; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association House of Delegates instruct its reference committees to issue interim reports of their recommendations (1) based on online testimony and other information received and (2) made available to house members with ample time for delegates to evaluate recommendations and, if desired, prepare comments in advance of live reference committee hearings (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, that our AMA HOD require resolution authors to submit their initial testimony online and include in detail how the new resolution is not a reaffirmation of existing policy; the authors would have the option of submitting additional testimony during the in-person hearings to respond to any concerns raised in the interim report or in testimony from others. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Minimal – less than $1,000

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