

DISCLAIMER

The following is a preliminary report of actions taken by the House of Delegates at its 2023 Interim Meeting and should not be considered final. Only the Official Proceedings of the House of Delegates reflect official policy of the Association.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES (I-23)

Report of Reference Committee F

Rebecca L. Johnson, MD, Chair

1 Your Reference Committee recommends the following consent calendar for acceptance:
2

3 **RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION**

- 4
5 1. Report of the House of Delegates Committee on the Compensation of the
6 Officers
7
8 2. Council on Long Range Planning and Development Report 1 - Women
9 Physicians Section Five-Year Review
10
11 3. Board of Trustees Report 13 - House of Delegates (HOD) Modernization
12
13 4. Speakers Report 2 - Extending Online Forum Trial Through A-24
14
15 5. Resolution 606 - Prevention of Healthcare-Related Scams
16

17 **RECOMMENDED FOR REFERRAL**

- 18
19 6. Board of Trustees Report 12 - American Medical Association Meeting Venues
20 and Accessibility
21
22 7. Resolution 601 - Carbon Pricing to Address Climate Change

Amendments

If you wish to propose an amendment to an item of business, click here: [Submit New Amendment](#)

RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION

- 1
2 (1) REPORT OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES COMMITTEE
3 ON THE COMPENSATION OF THE OFFICERS
4

5 **RECOMMENDATION:**
6

7 **Your Reference Committee recommends that the**
8 **recommendation in the Report of the House of**
9 **Delegates Committee on the Compensation of the**
10 **Officers be adopted and the remainder of the Report be**
11 **filed.**
12

13 **HOD ACTION: Recommendation in the Report of the House**
14 **of Delegates Committee on the Compensation of the**
15 **Officers adopted and the remainder of the Report filed.**
16

17 The Committee on Compensation of the Officers recommends the following
18 recommendation be adopted and the remainder of this report be filed:
19

20 That the President honorarium be increased by 3% and that the President-Elect,
21 Immediate Past-President, Chair and Chair-Elect honoraria be increased by 2% effective
22 July 1, 2024. These increases result in the following Honoraria:
23

24 POSITION	GOVERNANCE HONORARIUM
25 President	\$298,865
26 Immediate Past President	\$290,659
27 President-Elect	\$290,659
28 Chair	\$285,886
29 Chair-Elect	\$211,630

30
31 Beyond an introduction of the report by the Committee on Compensation of the Officers,
32 your Reference Committee received no further testimony; therefore, your Reference
33 Committee recommends adoption of the report.
34

- 35
36 (2) COUNCIL ON LONG RANGE PLANNING AND
37 DEVELOPMENT REPORT 1 - WOMEN PHYSICIANS
38 SECTION FIVE-YEAR REVIEW
39

40 **RECOMMENDATION:**
41

42 **Your Reference Committee recommends that the**
43 **recommendation in Council on Long Range Planning**
44 **and Development Report 1 be adopted and the**
45 **remainder of the Report be filed.**

1 **HOD ACTION: Recommendation in Council on Long Range**
2 **Planning and Development Report 1 adopted and the**
3 **remainder of the Report filed.**
4

5 The Council on Long Range Planning and Development recommends that our American
6 Medical Association renew delineated section status for the Women Physicians Section
7 through 2028 with the next review no later than the 2028 Interim Meeting and that the
8 remainder of this report be filed. (Directive to Take Action)

9
10 There was only supportive testimony of this item, which included comments encouraging
11 the Council on Long Range Planning and Development (CLRPD) to consider amending
12 our AMA Bylaws to provide for permanent section status after two successful five-year
13 reviews of a delineated section. This concept garnered opposition that cited the benefits
14 of having Sections continue to reflect on their structure, objectives, and accomplishments
15 with a regular cadence.

16
17 Based on the CLRPD's positive review and the favorable testimony regarding the benefits
18 of our AMA having a Women Physicians Section, your Reference Committee recommends
19 adoption of the report.

20
21
22 (3) **BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT 13 - HOUSE OF**
23 **DELEGATES (HOD) MODERNIZATION**
24

25 **RECOMMENDATION:**

26
27 **Your Reference Committee recommends that the**
28 **recommendation in Board of Trustees Report 13 be**
29 **adopted and the remainder of the Report be filed.**
30

31 **HOD ACTION: Recommendation in Board of Trustees**
32 **Report 13 adopted and the remainder of the Report filed.**
33

34 In light of these considerations, your Board of Trustees recommends that:

- 35
36 1. Resolution 622-A-22 not be adopted.
37 2. Board of Trustees Report 20-A-23 be reaffirmed.

38
39 Board of Trustees Report 13 responds to referral of Resolution 622-A-22, HOD
40 Modernization, which called on the AMA to convene a task force to determine how future
41 House of Delegates (HOD) meetings may be updated to improve efficiency and
42 effectiveness.

43
44 The Board of Trustees noted that there are ongoing task forces and planned activities to
45 advance the modernization of the HOD, including:

- 46
47 • The Resolution Modernization Task Force Open Forum that is being hosted during
48 the 2023 Interim Meeting;

- 1 • Speakers Report 2 - Extending Online Forum Trial Through A-24 calls for an
2 extension of the Online Forum trial that began at the 2022 Annual Meeting. The
3 outcome of the trial, and the success of subsequent adjustments that have been
4 made, have yet to be determined; and
5
- 6 • Board of Trustees Report 20-A-23, Surveillance Management System for
7 Organized Medicine Policies and Reports, reflects the AMA's commitment to invest
8 in technology and other infrastructure changes to support tracking of HOD
9 business.

10
11 Beyond the statement from the Board of Trustees, there was no testimony on this report;
12 therefore, your Reference Committee recommends that Board of Trustees Report 13 be
13 adopted.

14
15
16 (4) SPEAKERS REPORT 2 - EXTENDING ONLINE FORUM
17 TRIAL THROUGH A-24

18
19 **RECOMMENDATION:**

20
21 **Your Reference Committee recommends that the**
22 **recommendation in Speakers Report 2 be adopted and**
23 **the remainder of the Report be filed.**

24
25 **HOD ACTION: Recommendation in Speakers Report 2**
26 **adopted and the remainder of the Report filed.**

27
28 That the trial established by Policy D-600.956 be continued through Annual 2024.

29
30 Speakers Report 2 calls for a continuation of the Online Forum trial through the 2024
31 Annual Meeting. The trial was established by Policy D-600.956, "Increasing the
32 Effectiveness of Online Reference Committee Testimony."

33
34 Testimony was limited. The Chair of Resolution Modernization Task Force noted that the
35 Online Forums were currently under discussion as a part of their work. A suggestion was
36 offered in response that educational opportunities for resolution writing be made available.

37
38 Your Reference Committee noted that Online Forum testimony was generally supportive
39 of extending the trial; therefore, your Reference Committee favors adoption of Speakers
40 Report 2.

1 (5) RESOLUTION 606 - PREVENTION OF HEALTHCARE-
2 RELATED SCAMS
3

4 **RECOMMENDATION:**

5
6 **Your Reference Committee recommends that**
7 **Resolution 606 be adopted.**
8

9 **HOD ACTION: Resolution 606 adopted.**

10
11 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association encourage relevant parties to
12 educate patients and physicians on healthcare-related scams, including how to avoid and
13 report them. (New HOD Policy)

14
15 The author of Resolution 606 noted that healthcare related fraud has increased in recent
16 years. Although individuals from various backgrounds have been affected, it was noted
17 that the elderly population has been particularly vulnerable to fraudulent healthcare-
18 related events. Testimony also highlighted that marginalized and minoritized populations
19 were disproportionately impacted due to factors such as language barriers.

20
21 Your Reference Committees noted that Online Forum testimony supported patient and
22 physician education on recognizing and avoiding healthcare related scams.

23
24 Therefore, your Reference Committee recommends that Resolution 606, Prevention of
25 Healthcare-Related Scams, be adopted.

RECOMMENDED FOR REFERRAL

- 1
2 (6) BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT 12 - AMERICAN
3 MEDICAL ASSOCIATION MEETING VENUES AND
4 ACCESSIBILITY
5

6 **RECOMMENDATION:**
7

8 **Your Reference Committee recommends that the**
9 **recommendation in Board of Trustees Report 12 be**
10 **referred with report back at the 2024 Annual Meeting.**
11

12 **HOD ACTION: Recommendation in Board of Trustees**
13 **Report 12 referred with report back at the 2024 Annual**
14 **Meeting.**
15

16 The Board of Trustees therefore recommends that Policy G-630.140, "Lodging, Meeting
17 Venues, and Social Functions," be amended by addition and deletion as follows in lieu of
18 Resolution 610-A-22, Resolve 2, and Resolution 602-I-22, and the remainder of this report
19 be filed:
20

21 AMA policy on lodging and accommodations includes the following:
22

- 23 1. Our AMA supports choosing hotels for its meetings, conferences, and conventions
24 based on size, service, location, cost, and similar factors.
25
26 2. Our AMA shall attempt, when allocating meeting space, to locate the Section
27 Assembly Meetings in the House of Delegates Meeting hotel or in a hotel in close
28 proximity.
29
30 3. All meetings and conferences organized and/or primarily sponsored by our AMA will
31 be held in a town, city, county, or state that has enacted comprehensive regulation or
32 legislation requiring smoke-free worksites and public places (including restaurants and
33 bars), unless intended or existing contracts or special circumstances justify an
34 exception to this policy, and our AMA encourages state and local medical societies,
35 national medical specialty societies, and other health organizations to adopt a similar
36 policy.
37
38 4. It is the policy of our AMA not to ~~hold meetings and/or primarily sponsored by our AMA,~~
39 ~~in cities, counties, or states,~~ or pay member officer or employee dues in any club,
40 restaurant, or other institution that has exclusionary policies, including, but not limited
41 to, policies based on, race, color, religion, national origin, ethnic origin, language,
42 creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression,
43 disability, or age unless intended or existing contracts or special circumstances justify
44 an exception to this policy.
45
46 5. Our AMA will not hold meetings organized by or primarily sponsored by our AMA at
47 venues that have exclusionary policies, including, but not limited to, policies based on,
48 race, color, religion, national origin, ethnic origin, language, creed, sex, sexual

1 orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, disability, or age unless
2 intended or existing contracts or special circumstances justify an exception to this
3 policy.

- 4
- 5 6. Our AMA staff will work with facilities where AMA meetings are held to designate an
6 area for breastfeeding and breast pumping.
- 7
- 8 7. All future AMA meetings will be structured to provide accommodations for members
9 and invited attendees who are able to physically attend, but who need assistance in
10 order to meaningfully participate.
- 11
- 12 8. Our AMA will revisit our criteria for selection of hotels and other venues in order to
13 facilitate maximum participation by members and invited attendees with disabilities.
- 14
- 15 9. Our AMA will utilize security experts to assess the safety risk for our attendees and
16 guests at all venues. (Modify Current HOD Policy)

17

18 Board of Trustees Report 12 outlines issues with our AMA's current venue policies that
19 have presented challenges in accommodating House of Delegates meetings. The report
20 indicates that few venues currently meet AMA's policy requirements and can handle the
21 size of an AMA meeting without requiring multiple hotels and a convention center. The
22 Board of Trustees recommend amending AMA policy to allow for the selection of venues
23 that comport with AMA policy independent of local and state legislation or policies.

24

25 The response to the report was mixed as the matter is complex. The majority of the
26 testimony was in opposition and many supported referral. Most testimony was heard
27 regarding Recommendations 4, 5, and 9.

28

29 Supportive testimony recognized the difficulty given the restrictions current policy places
30 upon choice of meeting venues. There was also concern raised that boycotting a locale
31 may not be an effective way to advocate for change.

32

33 Opposition to the report noted concerns, including but not limited to, personal safety and
34 professional legal protections for provision of medical care. An amendment was proffered,
35 which reads:

36

37 It is the policy of our AMA to not hold meetings in cities, counties, or states that
38 have laws in which 1) physicians travelling from other states could be placed at-
39 risk of prosecution for providing evidence-based medical care; or 2) access to the
40 full spectrum of urgent evidence-based medical care for AMA meeting attendees
41 is restricted.

42

43 Your Reference Committee believes the additional language would address some of the
44 concerns expressed by those who are opposed to changing current AMA policy, but the
45 language is neither fully inclusive of minority or LGBTQ communities, nor does the
46 language fully resolve the conundrum our Board of Trustees have outlined.

47

48 Your Reference Committee believes that referral of Board of Trustees Report 12 with a
49 report back at the 2024 Annual Meeting would give our AMA an opportunity to address
50 concerns that were raised in the testimony.

1 (7) RESOLUTION 601 - CARBON PRICING TO ADDRESS
2 CLIMATE CHANGE

3
4 **RECOMMENDATION:**

5
6 **Your Reference Committee recommends that**
7 **Resolution 601 be referred.**

8
9 **HOD ACTION: Resolution 601 referred.**

10
11 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association amend D-135.966 by addition and
12 deletion to read as follows:

13
14 Declaring Climate Change a Public Health Crisis D-135.966

15
16 Our AMA:

- 17
18 1. Our AMA declares climate change a public health crisis that threatens the health and
19 well-being of all individuals.
20
21 2. Our AMA will protect patients by advocating for policies that: (a) limit global warming
22 to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, (b) reduce US greenhouse gas emissions
23 aimed at a 50 percent reduction in emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050,
24 and (c) support rapid implementation and incentivization of clean energy solutions
25 and significant investments in climate resilience through a climate justice lens.
26
27 3. Our AMA will consider signing on to the Department of Health and Human Services
28 Health Care Pledge or making a similar commitment to lower its own greenhouse
29 gas emissions.
30
31 4. Our AMA encourages the health sector to lead by example in committing to carbon
32 neutrality by 2050.
33
34 5. Our AMA will develop a strategic plan for how we will enact our climate change
35 policies including advocacy priorities and strategies to decarbonize physician
36 practices and the health sector with report back to the House of Delegates at the
37 2023 Annual Meeting.
38
39 6. Our AMA will advocate for federal and state carbon pricing systems and for US
40 support of international carbon pricing.
41
42 7. Our AMA will work with the World Medical Association and interested countries'
43 medical associations on international carbon pricing and other ways to address
44 climate change. (Modify Current HOD Policy)

45
46 As was stated in Reference Committee F's Preliminary Document, testimony was mixed
47 regarding AMA's role in addressing climate change by advocating for carbon pricing.

1 Those in support proffered that the United States healthcare sector is responsible for 8.5
2 percent of the country's greenhouse emissions, which is why our AMA already has policy
3 declaring climate change to be a public health crisis. It is believed that advocating for
4 carbon pricing would set the stage for AMA advocacy in this area and would serve to
5 protect patients worldwide. Those opposed proffered that carbon pricing increases costs
6 for those who can least afford it, and our AMA does not have the expertise to advise or
7 contribute effectively to national or global policy on environmental legislation. There are
8 many climate institutions that are much more experienced in helping to direct effective
9 policy.

10
11 Given the cogent but divided testimony that emerged in the Online Forum and that
12 continued during the on-site hearing, your Reference Committee recognizes this to be a
13 complex issue. Your Reference Committee therefore recommends referral of Resolution
14 601 so our House of Delegates can be fully informed, by way of a report back, on the
15 benefits and pitfalls of carbon pricing, including the possible consequences of our AMA
16 endorsing a specific climate-saving alternative.

17
18 This concludes the report of Reference Committee F. I would like to thank
19 Brooks F. Bock, MD, Robyn F. Chatman, MD, MPH, Robert A. Gilchick, MD, MPH,
20 Richard F. Labasky, MD, MBA, Brandi N. Ring, MD, MBA, Michael B. Simon, MD, MBA,
21 and all those who testified before the Committee.

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