RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION IN LIEU OF

(34) RESOLUTION 220 — ADVOCATING FOR THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS

RECOMMENDATION:

Your Reference Committee recommends that Alternate Resolution 220 be adopted in lieu of Resolution 220 to read as follows:

ADVOCATING FOR COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association support policies and programs that provide home- and community-based services to facilitate aging-in-place for older Americans, and will, to the extent it is otherwise consistent with AMA policy:

1. Advocate for the reauthorization and adequate funding for the Older Americans Act;
2. Support federal or state policies that would increase access, eligibility or funding for the Older Americans Act (OAA) programs; and
3. Collaborate with appropriate organizations to educate legislators and policymakers of the health benefits and fiscal effectiveness of the Older Americans Act (OAA). (Directive to Take Action)

HOD ACTION: Alternate Resolution 220 is adopted in lieu of Resolution 220.

ADOPTED LANGUAGE:

ADVOCATING FOR COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association support policies and programs that provide home- and community-based services to facilitate aging-in-place for older Americans, and will, to the extent it is otherwise consistent with AMA policy:

1. **Advocate for the reauthorization and adequate funding for the Older Americans Act;**
2. **Support federal or state policies that would increase access, eligibility or funding for the Older Americans Act (OAA) programs; and**

3. Collaborate with appropriate organizations to educate legislators and policymakers of the health benefits and fiscal effectiveness of the Older Americans Act (OAA). (Directive to Take Action)

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association advocate for the reauthorization and adequate funding for the Older Americans Act (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

RESOLVED, that our AMA oppose federal or state policies that would reduce access, eligibility or funding for the Older Americans Act (OAA) programs (New HOD Policy); and be it further

RESOLVED, that our AMA collaborate with appropriate organizations to educate legislators and policymakers of the health benefits and fiscal effectiveness of the Older Americans Act (OAA). (Directive to Take Action)

Your Reference Committee heard strong support for Resolution 220. Speakers broadly emphasized that community-based services supported through this policy help older adults maintain health, dignity, independence, and connection to their communities while also supporting family caregivers. Testimony noted that these services can improve care coordination, reduce preventable hospitalization and institutionalization, ease discharge challenges, and lessen strain on post-acute and long-term care systems. Some testimony described the Resolution as both patient-centered and fiscally prudent, highlighting the value of nutrition, transportation, respite, and other supportive services in allowing older adults to remain safely at home.

Your Reference Committee agrees. Programs traditionally funded through the Older Americans Act (OAA), such as Meals on Wheels and other programs offering home and community-based services to seniors, are crucial to supporting aging-in-place and long-term health for seniors. Your Reference Committee is concerned, however, that the approach taken by Resolution 220 would tie our AMA's policy to a specific piece of legislation, which could be subject to changes outside of our AMA's control, rather than broader concepts that our AMA supports. While the OAA has been law for over 60 years, it has been amended multiple times and there is no guarantee that Congress will not amend the OAA in a manner that is inconsistent with our AMA's policies.

To address this concern, your Reference Committee is offering alternate language for Resolution 220 that would preserve the substance of the original language, including its call to reauthorize the OAA, while ensuring that our AMA's policies are paramount. The Alternate Resolution 220 offered by your Reference Committee takes a concepts-based approach (supporting policies and programs that provide home and community-based services that support aging in place) but incorporates the original language explicitly supporting the OAA, provided that the OAA remains consistent with AMA policy.

Therefore, your Reference Committee recommends that Alternate Resolution 220 be adopted in lieu of Resolution 220.