Whereas, After a long and distinguished career in obstetrics and gynecology, Joseph “Joe” M. Heyman, MD, passed away on February 12, 2022, at age 79; and

Whereas, Dr. Heyman was highly regarded by his colleagues, patients, friends, and family not only as a careful, kind, and caring physician, but also a leader in healthcare, a staunch patient advocate, and a pioneer in digital health; and

Whereas, Dr. Heyman’s career was marked by a passion for development of medical policy and action on patient rights, expanded access to healthcare, increased racial and ethnic diversity in medical institutions and organizations, and an enthusiastic adapter of new technologies, both in and outside of the practice of medicine; and

Whereas, After having received his undergraduate degree from City College of New York and his M.D. from the State University of New York, Downstate Medical Center, Dr. Heyman completed his residency in obstetrics and gynecology at Sinai Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland; and

Whereas, Dr. Heyman’s career was marked by public service, including serving three years in the U.S. Public Health Service, two of which were spent on the Navajo Nation in Shiprock, New Mexico; and

Whereas, He continued his career in Massachusetts, practicing medicine for 41 years with Women’s Health Care in Newburyport and in solo practice in Amesbury; and

Whereas, Dr. Heyman was a leader in many of the settings where he worked, including serving terms on the Board of Trustees and as President of the medical staff at Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport and as Founder of the Whittier IPA non-profit physician organization in Merrimack Valley; and

Whereas, He continued to establish himself as a leader in organized medicine, including serving as President of the Massachusetts Medical Society, Chair of the Associate Members in the World Medical Association, and as Chair of the Board of Trustees at our American Medical Association; and

Whereas, That Dr. Heyman’s staunch advocacy for and joy in solo practice was a formative element in the creation of the Private Practice Physician Caucus and, later, the Private Practice Physician Section and that as such is he regarded by the PPPS as a founding father of the Section; and

Whereas, Dr. Heyman has been recognized for his efforts to improve racial and ethnic diversity in the practice of medicine with the creation by the AMA of the Joe Heyman, MD Fund, which provides financial support for medical students of color in financial need; and
Whereas, Beyond the practice of medicine, Dr. Heyman is remembered for his delight in irony, his gift of storytelling, his skill in bringing people together, and his passion for space exploration, science, art, and jazz music; and

Whereas, Dr. Heyman was a loving and devoted husband to his wife, Laurie, father to daughter Eve Heyman Tuminaro with her husband Dave and son Todd with his wife Suzy, and grandfather to Sierra, MacKenzie, Autumn, and Meadow, and uncle to nieces Zeka and Caroline; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association acknowledge with deep gratitude and sincere appreciation the lifelong work performed by Joseph Heyman, MD, in service of the practice of medicine; and be it further

RESOLVED, That our AMA extend its heartfelt condolences to the family of Joseph Heyman, MD, and adopt this resolution as an expression of deepest respect for our colleague and dear friend and our grief at his passing.