

American Medical Student Association  
House of Delegates 2012  
**Resolution: C-7**

INTRODUCED BY:	Jerry P. Abraham, MPH; Leo Lopez III, Past Premedical Regional Director Region IX; Tehreem Rehman, Chair, Race, Ethnicity and Culture in Health; Ryan Barlow, LGBT Grassroots Organizer; Juliana Morris, Grassroots Organizer, Race Ethnicity and Culture in Health; Elizabeth Wiley, Vice President for Internal Affairs; Badewa Fatunde, REACH Policy Coordinator
SCHOOL:	University of Texas School of Medicine San Antonio; Columbia College, Columbia University; Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific; Harvard Medical School; George Washington University School of Medicine; University of Illinois – Chicago College of Medicine
SUBJECT:	Resolution to Amend the Principles Regarding Violence and Hate
TYPE:	Resolution of Principles

1 WHEREAS, in the last several years there has been documented an increase in the number of  
2 bullying incidents on school and college campuses in which youth have been psychologically,  
3 emotionally, socially, physically and sexually abused;  
4  
5 WHEREAS, currently there is an increased need for support groups and empowerment programs  
6 for youth in the United States to protect themselves from these various forms of bullying and  
7 abuse;  
8  
9 WHEREAS, these programs stem the tide of damage done by bullying by providing youth the  
10 skills needed to become direct actors in combating violence in their own communities;  
11  
12 THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Principles Regarding Violence and Hate Crimes be  
13 amended as follows:

---

**PRINCIPLES REGARDING VIOLENCE AND HATE CRIMES**

14  
15  
16  
17  
18 The American Medical Student Association:

- 19 1. URGES the enactment of effective national handgun control legislation which calls for  
20 the following:
- 21 a. a ban on the sale, manufacture, importation, ownership and possession of handguns in  
22 the United States, except for the police, military and secured gun clubs; (1988)
- 23 b. a requirement that handgun owners be responsible and accountable for possession, care,  
24 use and ultimate disposition of their guns; (1988)
- 25 c. an imposition and enforcement of severe penalties, mandatory sentencing and civil  
26 liability for crimes involving handguns; (1988)
- 27 d. a strict federal ban on all plastic handguns; (1988)
- 28 e. national and all state legislation banning the concealed carry of any handgun, loaded or  
29 unloaded, by private citizens in any public place. (2001)
- 30
- 31 2. SUPPORTS child abuse prevention programs that would require a physician, without fear  
32 of criminal or civil liability, to report suspected cases of battered-child syndrome to appropriate  
33 agencies and to file such reports so that recurrent offenses can be detected;
- 34
- 35 3. SUPPORTS additional major research on the causes, prevention and cures of violence.  
36 (1993)
- 37
- 38 4. URGES the education of all Americans about the known facts about violence and  
39 encourages further studies on violence as a public health emergency. (1993)
- 40
- 41 5. In regard to hate crimes:
- 42 a. CONDEMNNS hate crimes which are defined as harassment, violence and crime  
43 motivated by prejudice and hate based on actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender  
44 identity, race, ethnicity, religion, gender or sex and physical or mental ability whether by groups  
45 or individuals; (1988)
- 46 b. SUPPORTS nationwide legislation calling for the documentation and increased public  
47 awareness of hate crimes and bias related violence; (1988)
- 48 c. URGES health professionals, community leaders, governmental and private agencies to  
49 recognize, help reduce and alleviate the effects of hate crimes upon victims to better preserve  
50 their human dignity and self worth; (1988)
- 51 d. SUPPORTS violence prevention by education, research and funding of community  
52 service on a national, state and local level; (1988)
- 53 e. URGES vigorous enforcement and prosecution efforts against individuals and groups  
54 perpetrating such crimes. (1988)
- 55
- 56 6. In regard to sexual abuse:
- 57 a. SUPPORTS the repeal of laws classifying as criminal conduct consensual sexual activity  
58 of any form in private, excepting those laws which protect children, the mentally incompetent  
59 and other persons from rape and other forced sexual activity;
- 60 b. CONDEMNNS all advertising that portrays women or men as natural and willing victims  
61 of sexual violence;
- 62 c. URGES state legislatures to institute or expand existing programs for dealing with the  
63 physical and psychological trauma of a sexual assault;

- 64 d. URGES state legislatures to adequately compensate the victim for the cost of medical,  
65 surgical and hospital expenses, counseling, emergency funds for housing and pregnancy;
- 66 e. URGES physicians to inquire sensitively about sexual, physical, or child abuse in an  
67 open atmosphere with all patients;
- 68 f. ENCOURAGES health professionals to address the psychological, legal and safety needs  
69 of adult and pediatric patients who are victims of sexual and/or physical abuse. (1997)  
70
- 71 7. SUPPORTS domestic abuse prevention programs that would require a physician, without  
72 fear of criminal or civil liability, to:
- 73 a. Note in the medical record suspected cases of child abuse, spouse/partner abuse,  
74 infirmed or elder abuse;
- 75 b. Report child, infirmed and elder abuse to the appropriate agencies as directed by law;
- 76 c. Comply with mandatory reporting of demographic information in regard to cases of  
77 domestic violence. (1996)  
78
- 79 8. OPPOSES mandatory reporting by health professionals of spouse or partner abuse that  
80 requires identifying individuals to outside agencies. (1996)  
81
- 82 9. ENCOURAGES health professionals to discuss with patients the legal and support  
83 services available to victims of domestic violence and to discuss safety planning. (1996)  
84
- 85 10. ENCOURAGES legislation and public health measures intended to prevent violence,  
86 which may include but are not limited to:
- 87 a. School-based conflict resolution, peer-mediation and mentoring programs; (1996)
- 88 b. Economic incentives for inner-city businesses; (1996)
- 89 c. Maintenance of affirmative action; (1996)
- 90 d. Increased resources for inner-city schools and adult education centers, including bilingual  
91 education. (1996)
- 92 e. School-based programs for violence prevention; (1996)
- 93 f. School- and community-based parenting education and support programs; (1996)
- 94 g. Hospital-based tertiary prevention programs, including violence prevention team  
95 intervention for trauma patients who have been victims of violence; (1996)
- 96 h. Population-based early childhood interventions modeled after successful programs such  
97 as Headstart. (1996)
- 98 i. Youth empowerment programs that teach youth skills needed to protect themselves against  
99 bullying including: sports programs, after-school programs, internships and employment  
100 opportunities among others.
- 101
- 102 11. SUPPORTS measures which will reduce the effects of domestic violence on adults and  
103 children by: (1996)
- 104 a. Supporting programs aimed at reducing domestic violence, such as school-based  
105 Domestic Violence Prevention Programs; (1996)
- 106 b. Supporting federal and state programs that aid a person desiring to leave an abusive  
107 relationship, including housing assistance, battered women's shelters, Temporary Assistance to  
108 Needy Families (TANF) (2005), Women, Infants and Children and other social support services;

- 109 c. Supporting the availability of mental health services for children who have witnessed  
110 abuse;
- 111 d. Supporting the availability of mental health services for victims of abuse. (2006)
- 112 e. Supporting increased education of current and future health professionals concerning  
113 domestic violence and its effects on children, including increased funding for such programs;  
114 (2006)
- 115 f. Supporting increased education of current and future health care professionals to screen  
116 for and respond appropriately to patients who are victims of domestic violence, including  
117 increased funding for such programs; (2006)
- 118 g. Supporting nonpunitive aide services for households experiencing violence.  
119
- 120 12. URGES provision of culturally and linguistically appropriate support services and legal  
121 advocacy for all victims of domestic violence, regardless of economic status, legal status,  
122 political beliefs, cultural background, geographic position, race, creed, national origin, age, sex,  
123 sexual orientation and gender identity, physical handicap, mental handicap, or institutionalization  
124 for criminal, medical, or psychiatric reasons, and ENCOURAGES increased funding and  
125 programs for special needs and underserved groups. (2006)