WHEREAS the ACGME has proposed removing the 16 hour work limit for first year medical residents in 2017; and

WHEREAS the ACGME based its position on the presumption that current reported resident work hours are accurate, when in fact it is known that work hours are frequently falsified, for reasons which may include fear of retaliation by their program or fear of retaliation to their program by ACGME; and (1)

WHEREAS residency programs may discourage reporting of work hours which violate the 80 hour work week for fear of threats to the residency’s accreditation status, which would also adversely affect the resident’s personal educational course; and (2)

WHEREAS there is currently no system for independent, anonymous mechanism for reporting work hours without fear of retribution in place;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Principles Regarding Resident and Student Work Hours (p. 114) be AMENDED to state:

14. Regarding duty hour reporting:

a. BELIEVES that duty hour reporting mechanisms that rely on reports from residents associated with their programs who may be coerced by their residencies to not report duty hour violations for fear of retribution by the ACGME are inadequate to ensure accurate reporting

b. SUPPORTS the development of an independent process for evaluating duty hours that bypasses reports from the program and goes directly from residents to the ACGME

c. SUPPORTS a policy of on-site visits to residency programs and resident surveys to collect as much information as possible to allow continuous quality improvement in resident education
References:
2) Casoy, Flavio and Suh, Joanne. Patients lose when resident physicians are afraid to unionize. KevinMD. http://www.kevinmd.com/blog/2014/01/patients-lose-resident-physicians-afraid-unionize.html

REPORT OF REFERENCE COMMITTEE A

DISCUSSION
BOT: adopt as written
BRD: N/A
PRD: Recommend to adopt as written
IRD: recommends to adopt as written
ACTE: N/A
Premedical Caucus: N/A
Other Groups: Voted to NA

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:
PROS: No proposition testimony provided
CONS: No proposition testimony provided

REFERENCE COMMITTEE COMMENTS:
Unanimous agreement to adopt as written amongst all groups and regions.

REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:
Adopt as written