

**AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
HOUSE OF DELEGATES 2017
RESOLUTION: A12**

INTRODUCED BY: Devki Joshi, Chair, Action Committee on Race, Ethnicity and Culture in Health; Eva Shelton Programming Coordinator, Action Committee on Race, Ethnicity and Culture in Health; Luis

SCHOOL: SUNY Downstate College of Medicine; University of Wisconsin-Madison; Baylor College of Medicine

SUBJECT: Principles Regarding Service in Underserved Areas and Service Obligations

TYPE: Resolution of Principles

1 WHEREAS, there is a significant need for primary care doctors working in medically
2 underserved areas.

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4 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Principles Regarding Service in
5 Underserved Areas and Service Obligations (p. 26) be AMENDED to state:

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7 The American Medical Student Association:

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9 1. SUPPORTS the concept that each physician should ~~volunteer~~ **work** for a minimum of
10 two years in an area of geographic or specialty need, such service preferably to take place
11 following completion of graduate training;

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13 2. In regard to financing service obligations and initiatives;

14 a. SUPPORTS legislation providing tax exemptions, financial support, or other incentives
15 for health professionals going into shortage areas;

16 b. Regarding service obligations in underserved areas:

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18 1. SUPPORTS the Public Health Service, Indian Health Service and National
19 Health Service Corps programs and URGES increased funding for such programs
20 to make positions available to any qualified applicant; (1994)

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22 2. STRONGLY URGES the development of loan programs with loan forgiveness
23 features tied to service in areas of geographic and specialty need; and URGES
24 that such forgiveness be available to all individuals desiring such mechanisms and
25 for loans from any source used to finance medical and premedical education; and
further URGES that the level of such loans be commensurate with the real costs
of medical education;

- 26 ~~3. ENCOURAGES private sector efforts, such as a physician-poor community~~
27 ~~contracting with a student to provide later service in return for financial support~~
28 ~~while in medical school;~~
29 4. URGES all scholarship programs with service obligations to have hardship
30 provisions, since the needs, motivations and family commitments of a student
31 may change between the time the obligation is incurred and repayment in service
32 is expected;
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34 5. URGES the adoption of legislation to exempt from taxation income due to
35 service-dependent forgiveness of educational loans and scholarships;
36 6. SUPPORTS the concept of federal and state incentive grants directed at
37 meeting national health work-force objectives;

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41 4. SUPPORTS the National Health Service Corps in its efforts to deal with the problem
42 of placing medical resources and personnel in **needy underserved** urban areas in addition
43 to needy rural areas;

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45 ~~5. OPPOSES compulsory postgraduate service in a government-designated area, but~~
46 ~~believes that, should such service be imposed:~~
47 ~~a. all students should be at risk for service;~~
48 ~~b. students should receive tuition and cost-of-living expenses in exchange for service;~~
49 ~~c. the service program should meet the standards suggested for voluntary service~~
50 ~~programs in point 3;~~
51 ~~d. an equal choice between military and civilian service, with equal pay privileges, should~~
52 ~~be offered;~~
53 ~~e. male and female physicians should receive equal consideration and equal obligations~~
54 ~~commensurate with their professional capabilities.~~

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58 ~~7. URGES efforts to be made to increase incomes of providers serving in underserved~~
59 ~~communities to a level that is on par with providers not practicing in shortage areas.~~
60 (1994)

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63 FISCAL NOTE: None