

**AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
HOUSE OF DELEGATES 2017
RESOLUTION: A3**

INTRODUCED BY: Tanya Khan, Community & Public Health Advocacy Coordinator,
Community & Public Health Action Committee; Allison Hare,
Community & Public Health Programming Coordinator, Community &
Public Health Action Committee; Mallika Sabharwal, Chair, Community
& Public Health Action Committee; Neil Vallabh, Secretary; Diana
Huang, Vice President for Programming Development

SCHOOL: Northeast Ohio Medical University; University of Wisconsin-Madison;
University of Louisville School of Medicine; Northeast Ohio Medical
University; Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University

SUBJECT: Amendment to Principles Regarding of Food and Nutrition

TYPE: Resolution of Principles

1 WHEREAS AMSA recognizes freedom from hunger as a basic human right; and (p. 56)

2
3 WHEREAS around 783 million people do not have access to clean water and almost 2.5 billion
4 do not have access to adequate sanitation; and (1)

5
6 WHEREAS 6 to 8 million people die annually from the consequences of disasters and water-
7 related diseases; and (1)

8
9 WHEREAS the water crisis is the #1 global risk based on impact to society as of January 2015;
10 and (2)

11
12 WHEREAS community water fluoridation is the most cost-effective way to deliver fluoride to
13 people of all ages, socioeconomic status, and education levels; and (3)

14
15 WHEREAS community water fluoridation is supported by nearly every public health, medical,
16 and dental organization, including the American Dental Association, American Academy of
17 Pediatrics, US Public Health Service, and World Health Organization; and (3)

18
19 WHEREAS community water fluoridation has been shown to save money for families and for
20 the US healthcare system; and (3)

21

WHEREAS community water fluoridation effectively reduces dental cavities around 25% in adults and children; (3)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Principles on the Food and Nutrition (p. 56) be AMENDED BY ADDITION to state:

The American Medical Student Association:

1. RECOGNIZES freedom from hunger as a basic human right;
2. RECOGNIZES easy access to clean, drinkable water as a basic human right.
3. In regard to water fluoridation:
 - a. SUPPORTS community water fluoridation.
 - b. URGES all public health departments to provide safe, optimally-fluoridated water to community members.
 - c. OPPOSES non-evidence-based science against community water fluoridation.

FISCAL NOTE: None

REFERENCES:

1. "Facts and figures." *2013 - United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation: Facts and Figures*. United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, 2013. Web. 20 Dec. 2016.
2. "The Global Risks 2015 Report." *Global Risks 2015*. World Economic Forum, n.d. Web. 20 Dec. 2016.
3. "Community Water Fluoridation." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016. Web. 18 Dec. 2016.

REPORT OF REFERENCE COMMITTEE A

DISCUSSION

BOT: Adopt as amended Motion passes 9-0-0

3. In regard to water fluoridation:

a. SUPPORTS community water fluoridation.

b. URGES all public health departments to provide safe, optimally-fluoridated water to community members.

c. OPPOSES non-evidence-based ~~science against~~ information about community water fluoridation.

BRD: N/A

PRD: Recommend to adopt as written

IRD: recommends to adopt as written

64 **ACTE:** amended following changes

- 65 • **2. RECOGNIZES** ~~easy access to~~ clean, drinkable water as a basic human right.
- 66 • Recommend removal of 3c

67 **Premedical Caucus:** N/A

68 **Other Groups:** NE Ohio Medical School Chapter: adopt as written

69
70
71 **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:**

72 **PROS:** The changes suggested by the BOT were relevant and necessary and further clarified the
73 purpose of the resolution and do not alter the intent of the content.

74 **CONS:** Further clarification is necessary to explain the context of the words in regards to section
75 3C.

76
77
78 **REFERENCE COMMITTEE COMMENTS:**

79 Majority of the regions indicated that further clarification is necessary for the intent of the
80 content of the resolution is altered. Particularly, ACTE recommendation would further alter the
81 intent of the content of the resolution.

82
83 There was disagreement with one ref com in regards to the final recommendation of recommend
84 for adoption; hence, suggested referral to ad-hoc committee comprised of a representative from
85 each of the following: BOT, BRD, PRD, IRD, ACTE. In addition, a recommendation to submit a
86 new resolution for reconsideration by HOD 2018.

87
88 **REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:**

89
90 Adopt as amended

91
92 **3. In regard to water fluoridation:**

93 **a. SUPPORTS** community water fluoridation.

94 **b. URGES** all public health departments to provide safe, optimally-fluoridated water to
95 community members.

96 **c. OPPOSES** non-evidence-based ~~science against~~ information about community water
97 fluoridation.