

**AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
HOUSE OF DELEGATES 2017
RESOLUTION: B15**

INTRODUCED BY: Kelly Thibert DO, MPH, National President;

SCHOOL: Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine

SUBJECT: Principles Regarding Indigenous Health (new principle)

TYPE: Resolution of Principles

1 WHEREAS Indigenous peoples all over the world continue to suffer from disproportionately
2 high rates of poverty, health problems, crime and human rights abuses; and
3

4 WHEREAS in the United States, a Native American is 600 times more likely to contract
5 tuberculosis and 62 percent more likely to commit suicide than the general population; and
6

7 WHEREAS in the United States the HHS reported that death rates secondary to specific illnesses
8 and disorders, were significantly higher for Indigenous Peoples (Alcoholism 770% higher,
9 Tuberculosis 750% higher, Diabetes 420% higher, Accidents 280% higher, Homicide 210%
10 higher, Suicide 190% higher); and
11

12 WHEREAS in Australia, an indigenous child can expect to die 20 years earlier than his non-
13 native compatriot. The life expectancy gap is also 20 years in Nepal, while in Guatemala it is 13
14 years and in New Zealand it is 11; and
15

16 WHEREAS in parts of Ecuador, indigenous people have 30 times greater risk of throat cancer
17 than the national average; and
18

19 WHEREAS worldwide, more than 50 per cent of indigenous adults suffer from Type 2 diabetes
20 – a number predicted to rise; and

21 WHEREAS the UN notes that “Globally, indigenous peoples suffer from poorer health, are more
22 likely to experience disability, and reduced quality of life and ultimately die younger than their
23 non- indigenous counterparts”; and

24 WHEREAS the UN notes that “Indigenous women experience health problems with particular
25 severity, as they are disproportionately affected by natural disasters and armed conflicts, and are
26 often denied access to education, land property, and other economic resources”; and

27 WHEREAS the UN notes that “Differences in infant mortality between indigenous and non-
28 indigenous populations reflect the structural inequalities of these groups on an international

29 level. Many of the most widespread causes of mortality among indigenous children are
30 preventable, such as malnutrition, diarrhea, parasitic infections, and tuberculosis”;

31 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Principles on Indigenous Health be ADDENDED
32 to the PPP to state:

33 **The American Medical Student Association:**

- 34 1. ENCOURAGES promoting the rights of indigenous peoples in line with the UN
35 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- 36
37 2. RECOGNIZES the unmet health needs of Indigenous People are severe and the health
38 status of this population is far below that of the general population – facilitating a
39 concern for both public health and human rights.
- 40
41 3. ENCOURAGES medical professionals to provide the quantity and quality of health
42 services which will permit the health status of Indigenous Peoples to be raised to the
43 highest possible level and to encourage the maximum participation of these populations
44 in the planning and management of those services.
- 45

46
47 FISCAL NOTE: None
48

49 REPORT OF REFERENCE COMMITTEE B

50

51 **DISCUSSION**

52 **BOT:** Replace on line 38 the word [facilitating] to [creating].

53 **BRD:** Adopt as written

54 **PRD:** Adopt as written

55 **IRD:** Adopt as written.

56 **ACTE:** Adopt as written

57 **International Caucus:** None.

58 **Premedical Caucus:** None.

59 **Resident Caucus:** None.

60 **Other Groups:** None.

61 **Other Discussion:** None.

62

63 **SYNTHESIS OF DISCUSSION**

64

65 BOT makes content more clear by replacing [facilitating] to [creating] in line 38.

66

67 **REFERENCE COMMITTEE COMMENTS**

68

69 We believe the word change in line 38 from [facilitating] to [creating] offers better verbiage.

70 **REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION**

71 Adopt as amended:

72 The American Medical Student Association:

- 73 1. ENCOURAGES promoting the rights of indigenous peoples in line with the UN
74 Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
75
- 76 2. RECOGNIZES the unmet health needs of Indigenous People are severe and the health
77 status of this population is far below that of the general population – **creating** a concern
78 for both public health and human rights.
79
- 80 3. ENCOURAGES medical professionals to provide the quantity and quality of health
81 services which will permit the health status of Indigenous Peoples to be raised to the
82 highest possible level and to encourage the maximum participation of these populations
83 in the planning and management of those services.
84