

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

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

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

The American Medical Student Association:

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

FISCAL NOTE: None