

AMERICAN MEDICAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION
HOUSE OF DELEGATES 2016
RESOLUTION B4

INTRODUCED BY: Diana Huang, Chair, Trainee Wellness and Professionalism Action Committee

SCHOOL: Lewis Katz School of Medicine at Temple University

SUBJECT: Principles Regarding Allied Health-care Professionals and Personnel

TYPE: Resolution of Principles

WHEREAS AMSA has long believed in the importance of interdisciplinary teams in providing efficient, high quality patient care and states in its PPP its support for health professions beyond medicine [1]; and

WHEREAS organizations including the American Academy of Family Physicians and American Academy of Pediatrics support the idea that this interdisciplinary team be led by a physician in some capacity, due to the increased level of training of physicians and patient desire [2], [3]; and

WHEREAS AMSA recognizes that there is a need for increased funding of training of many healthcare practitioners, including physicians, as many patients and communities are still underserved; and

WHEREAS AMSA believes that the best patient care is possible when there is collaboration between the health professions throughout the process from education to practice;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Principles on Allied Health-Care Professionals and Personnel (p. 39) be AMENDED BY ADDITION AND SUBSTITUTION to state:

1. URGES that state certified nurses, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, physician assistants, pharmacists and home-birth midwives be given more responsibility in the care of patients and be integrated into **physician-led** patient care teams;
- ...
3. SUPPORTS increased funding of training of **not only physicians, but also** nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, nurse midwives, certified professional home-birth midwives and similar professionals, and ENCOURAGES that their collective expertise be employed to maximum efficiency, **including the incorporation of interprofessional education into training curricula**; (~~1997~~)
- ...
6. URGES the strengthening of cooperative efforts between ~~Medicine and Nursing~~ **health professions** to collaborate on a joint solution to ~~hospitals' nursing shortages~~ **better serving underserved patients and communities** (~~2005~~)

Fiscal note: None

- [1] AMSA Contributions: Interdisciplinary Training for Medical Students <http://www.amsa.org/about/history-of-amsa/amsa-contributions/>
- [2] Education and Training: Family Physicians and Nurse Practitioners <http://www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/news/NP-Kit-FP-NP-UPDATED.pdf>
- [3] Primary Care for the 21st Century http://www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/about_us/initiatives/AAFP-PCMHWhitePaper.pdf

REPORT OF REFERENCE COMMITTEE B

DISCUSSION

BOT: Proposed to amend the resolution by:

- Striking out Section 1 entirely
- Changing Section 3 to read “SUPPORTS increased funding of training of **health professionals**, and ENCOURAGES that their collective expertise be employed to maximum efficiency, **including the incorporation of interprofessional education into training curricula**,”
- Changing Section 6 to read “URGES the strengthening of cooperative efforts between **health professions** to collaborate on a joint solution **toward achieving the “triple aims”**”.

BRD: Voted to adopt the resolution as amended by the BOT, with unanimous consent.

PRD: none.

IRD: Voted to adopt the resolution with only Section 1 as amended by the BOT. IRD commented on the striking out of Section 1 that “physician-led” is not always the best-case scenario.” The IRD did not comment on the BOT-proposed amendments to Sections 3 and 6.

ACTE: Voted to adopt the resolution as written, with unanimous consent.

Premedical Caucus: none.

Other Groups: none.

SYNTHESIS OF DISCUSSION

PRO: The pro testimonies overall were in support of the new wording of Principles on Allied Health-Care Professionals and Personnel of the Constitution and Bylaws. BOT amended the resolution to reduce the wordage, receiving full support from BRD and partial support from IRD.

CON: There were no testimonies against the resolution.

REFERENCE COMMITTEE COMMENTS

Regarding the complete striking-out of Section 1, Reference Committee B was not able to obtain a more detailed testimony as to why the Section should be completely removed. RefComm B believes that AMSA is in strong support of interdisciplinary teams and thus, would benefit from retaining Section 1 as part of the Principles. RefComm suggests editing Section 1 to remove the word “physician-led”, supporting the IRD statement that “physician-led” is not always the best or even the most common scenario.

Otherwise, RefComm B supports the amendments to Sections 3 and 6 for their inclusiveness to all health professions.

REFERENCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to REFER the resolution to committee – have the BOT discuss the level of AMSA support for interdisciplinary teams and for the integration of health professions, and submit a resolution for HOD 2017.