

1 A11

2 American Medical Student Association

3 House of Delegates 2022

4 Resolution:

5 **Introduced by:** Sabah Munshi, Nadiya Yerich, Trevor Lyford, Chelsea Shu, Zoreed Mukhtar,
6 Israa Ismail

7 **School(s):** Virginia Commonwealth University, UNC School of Medicine, Milken Institute
8 School of Public Health, Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine, CUNY Brooklyn College

9 **Subject:** Principles Regarding Mental Health

10 **Type:** Amendment to Principles

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12 WHEREAS research shows that people with major mental illness are 2.5 times more likely to be
13 the victims of violence than other members of society [3].

14 WHEREAS the risk of being subjected to police violence increases as disability intersects with
15 race, class, gender, and LGBTQ status; individuals who experience marginalization are at
16 increased risk of police brutality even in their schools [8].

17 WHEREAS nearly half of Black Americans have little or no confidence that police officers treat
18 people of color fairly and feel uncomfortable interacting with the police resulting in a barrier to
19 accessing care [9].

20 WHEREAS universities such as Virginia Commonwealth University have law enforcement
21 officers from VCUPD conduct mental health wellness checks on students instead of trained
22 mental health professionals [4].

23 WHEREAS as the presence of School Resource Officers (SROs) increased under the guise of
24 protecting students, BIPOC students with disabilities began to experience being handcuffed,
25 tased, and dragged by their feet [8].

26 WHEREAS in 2019, a student from American University experienced police violence during a
27 mental health wellness check when she was forcibly removed from her apartment by six
28 American University police officers [2].

WHEREAS University of Colorado Boulder has a campus counselor respond to students in a mental health crisis in person with a police officer to assess and de-escalate the situation [7].

WHEREAS after hours, students in a crisis at University of Colorado Boulder need to contact the police to be connected to an after-hour counselor [7].

WHEREAS University of Chicago has police officers respond to mental health crisis calls and many officers have received only 40 hours mental health training through the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) program [6].

WHEREAS on May 14, 2018, Marcus David Peters, an alum of VCU was killed during a mental health crisis by a Richmond Police officer, Michael Nyantaki who had received the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) in 2011 [5].

WHEREAS in May 2020, Virginia Commonwealth University separated the crisis line dispatch between the police department and the university's counseling center which no longer requires students to contact the police first to speak with a trained mental health professional during a crisis [1].

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Principles Regarding Mental Health (pg. 106) be **AMENDED BY ADDITION** to state:

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1. **URGES universities to separate the crisis line dispatch between the law enforcement and the counseling services and SUPPORTS the implementation of a crisis line that allows students to speak with a trained mental health professional without contacting law enforcement.**
2. **URGES universities to require the presence of a campus counselor or a community behavioral health professional during a mental health wellness check.**

Fiscal Note: None

Citations:

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