

2 American Medical Student Association

3 House of Delegates 2022

4 Resolution:

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11 of Osteopathic Medicine

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13 **Subject:** Principles Regarding Healthcare in the Criminal Justice System

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15 **Type:** Addition to Principles
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19 WHEREAS healthcare insurance terminates benefits and doesn't pay for the medical care of
20 individuals while they are incarcerated AND only half of the 700,000 individuals released annually
21 gain health coverage and care under federal laws. [1]

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23 WHEREAS people who are incarcerated have greater physical and mental health needs than the
24 general population including prevalence of 10-12% major depression, 40-70% personality
25 disorder, 30-60% drug misuse or dependence prior to incarceration, and 20% post-traumatic stress
26 disorder. [2]

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28 WHEREAS 59% of all countries worldwide have prison occupancy levels exceeding their official
29 capacity with crowding linked to adverse health outcomes and transmission of infection. [3]

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31 WHEREAS incarcerated individuals are at an increased risk of all-cause mortality, suicide, self-
32 harm, violence, and victimization compared to the general population. [4]

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34 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Principles Regarding Healthcare in the Criminal
35 Justice System (pg 158) be **AMENDED BY ADDITION** to state:

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37 The American Medical Student Association
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1. ENCOURAGES the proper access to healthcare coverage and resources which cover the expenses of any medical conditions that arise while incarcerated and after release under the Affordable Care Act.
2. SUPPORTS adequate mental health treatments, facilities, support systems, and substance abuse services within the criminal justice system to lessen the burden of psychiatric disorders on incarcerated individuals.
3. OPPOSES crowded housing conditions and increased viral transmissibility which are contributing to COVID-19 outbreaks, failure to isolate, and overall poor health outcomes preventing health equity in prison systems.
4. ENCOURAGES preventative medicine campaigns targeted specifically at incarcerated populations which promote informed decisions about one's health and aims to lower the risk of cardiovascular disease and poor nutrition that arises while incarcerated.

Fiscal Note: None

Citations:

1. Cuellar, A. E., & Cheema, J. (2012). As roughly 700,000 prisoners are released annually, about half will gain health coverage and care under federal laws. *Health Affairs*, 31(5), 931-938.
2. Fazel, S., Hayes, A. J., Bartellas, K., Clerici, M., & Trestman, R. (2016). Mental health of prisoners: prevalence, adverse outcomes, and interventions. *The Lancet Psychiatry*, 3(9), 871-881.
3. Simpson, P. L., & Butler, T. G. (2020). Covid-19, prison crowding, and release policies.
4. Fazel, S., & Baillargeon, J. (2011). The health of prisoners. *The Lancet*, 377(9769), 956-965.