

**B1**  
**American Medical Student Association**  
**House of Delegates 2022**  
**Resolution:**

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**Subject:** Principles Regarding the Environment

**Type:** Addition to Principles

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WHEREAS it is estimated that plastic debris accounts for 60–80% of marine litter, reaching 90–95% in some areas [1,2].

WHEREAS it has been found that microplastics can enter the human food chain through ingestion of fish, shellfish, and filter feeders [3].

WHEREAS it has been found that endocrine-disrupting chemicals (bisphenol A and related chemicals, flame retardants, phthalates, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, dioxins, UV-stabilizers, and toxic metals such as lead and cadmium) leach from plastics and threaten health [4].

WHEREAS it has been found that ingestion, skin contact and inhalation are the main routes of exposure of humans to these additives, with dermatitis having been reported from skin contact with some of the additives present in plastics [5].

WHEREAS it has been found that research suggests that human exposure could cause health impacts including hormonal imbalances, reproductive problems like infertility, and even cancer [6,7].

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Principles Regarding the Environment (pg. 127-129) be **AMENDED BY ADDITION** to state:

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1. SUPPORTS the elimination of single-use plastic bags in commercial settings.
2. OPPOSES production of single-use plastic utensils.

Fiscal Note: None

Citations:

1. Derraik, J. G. B. (2002). The pollution of the marine environment by plastic debris: a review. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 44(9), 842–852. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0025-326x\(02\)00220-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0025-326x(02)00220-5)
2. Suhrhoff, T. J., & Scholz-Böttcher, B. M. (2016). Qualitative impact of salinity, UV radiation and turbulence on leaching of organic plastic additives from four common plastics — A lab experiment. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 102(1), 84–94. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2015.11.054>
3. Mathalon, A., & Hill, P. (2014). Microplastic fibers in the intertidal ecosystem surrounding Halifax Harbor, Nova Scotia. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 81(1), 69–79. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2014.02.018>
4. Flaws, J., Damdimopoulou, P., Patisaul, H., Raetzman, L., & Vandenberg, L. (2020). (rep.). *Plastics, EDCs & Health: A guide for public interest organizations and policy-makers on endocrine disrupting chemicals & plastics* (pp. 1–92). IPEN.
5. Mathieu-Denoncourt J, Wallace SJ, De Solla SR, Langlois VS (2015) Plasticizer endocrine disruption: Highlighting developmental and reproductive effects in mammals and non-mammalian aquatic species. *Gen Comp Endocrinol* 219: 74-88.
6. Yang, C. Z., Yaniger, S. I., Jordan, V. C., Klein, D. J., & Bittner, G. D. (2011). Most plastic products release estrogenic chemicals: a potential health problem that can be solved. *Environmental health perspectives*, 119(7), 989–996. <https://doi.org/10.1289/ehp.1003220>
7. Brandt-Rauf, P. W., Li, Y., Long, C., Monaco, R., Kovvali, G., & Marion, M. J. (2012). Plastics and carcinogenesis: The example of vinyl chloride. *Journal of carcinogenesis*, 11, 5. <https://doi.org/10.4103/1477-3163.93700>