

RESOLUTION 57 - 05A

Title: Eliminate Underage Alcohol Consumption
Introduced by: Narinder K. Sherma, MD, for the Wayne County Delegation
Original Author: Narinder K. Sherma, MD
Referred to: Reference Committee D
House Action: Adopted

Whereas, approximately 11 million American youth under the age of 21, drink alcohol and 7 million of them are binge drinkers, and

Whereas, underage drinking is a factor in nearly half of all teen automobile crashes which is the leading cause of death among teenagers, and linked to two-thirds of all sexual assaults and date rapes, and

Whereas, alcohol consumption contributes to youth suicides, homicides and fatal injuries, and

Whereas, on average, a child takes his or her first drink before age 12 and youth who use alcohol before age 15 are four times more likely to become alcoholics than adults whose first drink is at the legal age of 21, and

Whereas, the brain goes through dynamic change during adolescence, and alcohol can seriously damage long-term and short-term growth and cognitive and intellectual and social development processes, and

Whereas, the AMA and the AMA Alliance, collaborating with the AMA Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse, have created an Action Team on Alcohol and Health: An Initiative to Eliminate Underage Drinking, with the intent of involving practicing physicians from around the nation; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS actively oppose underage drinking by working toward a comprehensive community-based environmental approach that includes local and state policies and medical services; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS support public health/environmental policies to curtail underage and high-risk drinking, including banning underage young people from entry into bars, increasing alcohol excise taxes, reducing or eliminating drink specials, reducing/controlling alcohol outlet density and requiring keg registration, mandating server and seller training and enforcement; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS designate a member(s) to participate on the American Medical Association Action Team on Alcohol and Health.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE