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Title: Reaffirm the MSMS and AMA’s Commitment to Diversity and Tolerance
Introduced by: Amina Dafalla, MD, for the Wayne County Delegation
Original Author: Amina Dafalla, MD
Referred to: Reference Committee C
House Action: **AMEND**

Whereas, the US health care system benefits from the diverse backgrounds and experiences of its physicians, and

Whereas, there exists in Michigan one of the largest populations of Muslim Americans who make up a significant proportion of the health care work force despite a growing trend towards xenophobia, discrimination, divisiveness and fear, and

Whereas, President Donald J. Trump signed an executive order on January 27, 2017, that effectively barred Muslim individuals with visas and green cards from seven select countries from entering the country, and

Whereas, many Michigan institutions were negatively impacted as their doctors were prevented from resuming service because they were barred from entering the US wherein they legally reside, and

Whereas, those in the country at the time of the order felt targeted by the highest office of the land, and

Whereas, the federal Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 explicitly limits presidential authority by stating that no person could be “discriminated against in the issuance of an immigrant visa because of the person’s race, sex, nationality, place of birth, or place of residence,” and the only exceptions are those expressly granted by the US Congress, and

Whereas, doctors are called upon to set a higher standard in terms of judiciousness and must be at the forefront in fights against discrimination; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS reaffirms its commitment to diversity and inclusion and condemns all attempts by agencies, be they government or private, to discriminate based on race, religion, sexual orientation, creed, sex, gender identity, disability, ethnic origin, national origin, or age as stated in “MSMS Position on Discrimination;” and supports current AMA Policies H-65.965, H-65.978; and D 160.988.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

Relevant AMA Policy:

Support of Human Rights and Freedom H-65.965

Our AMA: (1) continues to support the dignity of the individual, human rights and the sanctity of human life, (2) reaffirms its long-standing policy that there is no basis for the denial to any human being of equal rights, privileges, and responsibilities commensurate with his or her individual capabilities and ethical character

because of an individual's sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or transgender status, race, religion, disability, ethnic origin, national origin, or age; (3) opposes any discrimination based on an individual's sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion, disability, ethnic origin, national origin or age and any other such reprehensible policies; (4) recognizes that hate crimes pose a significant threat to the public health and social welfare of the citizens of the United States, urges expedient passage of appropriate hate crimes prevention legislation in accordance with our AMA's policy through letters to members of Congress; and registers support for hate crimes prevention legislation, via letter, to the President of the United States.

Nondiscrimination in Responding to Terrorism H-65.978

Our AMA: (1) affirms its commitment to work with appropriate agencies and associations in responding to terrorist attacks; and (2) opposes discrimination or acts of violence against any person on the basis of religion, culture, nationality, or country of education or origin in the nation's response to terrorism.

Financial Impact of Immigration on American Health System D-160.988

Our AMA will: (1) ask that when the US Department of Homeland Security officials have physical custody of undocumented foreign nationals, and they deliver those individuals to US hospitals and physicians for medical care, that the US Office of Customs and Border Protection, or other appropriate agency, be required to assume responsibility for the health care expenses incurred by those detainees, including detainees placed on "humanitarian parole" or otherwise released by Border Patrol or immigration officials and their agents; and (2) encourage that public policy solutions on illegal immigration to the United States take into consideration the financial impact of such solutions on hospitals, physicians serving on organized medical staffs, and on Medicare, and Medicaid.