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3 Title: Climate Change Designation, Goals, and Implementation of Measures
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5 Introduced by: Terrence Joiner, MD, for the Washtenaw County Delegation
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7 Original Author: Terrence Joiner, MD
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9 Referred To: Reference Committee D
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11 House Action: **APPROVED AS AMENDED**
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14 Whereas, the health care industry is among the most carbon-intensive service sectors in the
15 industrialized world, and

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17 Whereas, substantial increases in morbidity and mortality are expected in association with a
18 range of health outcomes including heat-related illness, illness caused by poor air quality,
19 undernutrition from reducing food quality and security, and related vector-borne diseases, and
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21 Whereas, vulnerable populations (e.g., inner city, low income, homeless, etc.) and regions (e.g.,
22 inner city and rural), especially in Michigan, will be differentially affected with expected increases in
23 poverty and inequities as a consequence of climate change, and
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25 Whereas, the combustion of fossil fuels is the major source of both air pollution and the
26 greenhouse gas emissions during climate change, and
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28 Whereas, fetuses, infants, and children are especially vulnerable to air pollution and climate
29 change; therefore be it
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31 RESOLVED: That MSMS support efforts to educate physicians and other health care workers
32 that climate change is creating a health care emergency and that these climate change effects are
33 disproportionately causing health consequences among these vulnerable populations; and be it further
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35 RESOLVED: That MSMS support and advocate to educate our communities, medical and non-
36 medical, about the impact of climate change on health outcomes for the residents of Michigan; and be
37 it further
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39 RESOLVED: That MSMS, in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Health and Human
40 Services, advocate for education of the public as to ways to mitigate the impact the effects of climate
41 change and reduce the use of fossil fuels; and be it further
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43 RESOLVED: That MSMS will support the membership in efforts to address climate change by
44 advocating for members to use available resources for climate change education and mitigation
45 through its support and membership in groups such as the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and
46 Health, My Green Doctor, and Practice Green Health.
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Relevant MSMS Policy:

Air and Water Pollution

Reasonable and scientific study should be directed toward the sensible control of the major problems of air and water pollution, whether it is the dusts and wastes of industry, the products of combustion of gasoline or oil (automobiles), the combustion products of home heating and burning equipment, or of smoking tobacco.

Air Pollution and EPA Clean Power Plan Policies

MSMS supports:

- The Environmental Protection Agency's authority to promulgate rules to regulate and control greenhouse gas emissions in the United States;
- Increased physician participation in regional and state decision-making regarding air pollution across the United States;
- State legislation and regulations that meaningfully reduce power plant emissions of carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide;
- Efforts to limit carbon dioxide emissions through the reduction of the burning of coal in the state's power generating plants, efforts to improve the efficiency of power plants, and continued development of alternative renewable energy sources; and,
- National enactment of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan and the implementation of the Plan's policies in Michigan.

Climate Change

MSMS supports the American Medical Association policy, Global Climate Change and Human Health (H-135.938).

Endorse Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Air Quality Standards

MSMS supports the current Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) air quality standards for ozone, nitrogen oxides, and particulates.

Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health

MSMS endorses the Consensus Statement of the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health. (See Addendum R in website version)

Policy Statement of Environmental Pollution

MSMS supports:

1. Efforts to improve environmental health.
2. All agencies charged with the control of environmental pollution.
3. Increasing the Michigan landfill tipping fee to discourage the use of Michigan landfills by neighboring states and countries in order to preserve the quality of Michigan's environment for years to come.

Support of the Clean Air Act

MSMS supports the Clean Air Act.

Relevant AMA Policy:

Global Climate Change and Human Health H-135.938

Our AMA: 1. Supports scientific consensus that the Earth is undergoing adverse global climate change and that anthropogenic contributions are significant. These climate changes have adversely affected the physical and mental health of people. We recognize that minoritized and marginalized populations, children, pregnant people, the elderly, rural communities, and those who are economically disadvantaged will suffer disproportionate harm from climate change.

2. Supports educating the medical community on the adverse public health effects of global climate change and incorporating the health implications of climate change into the spectrum of medical education, including topics such as population displacement, heat waves and drought, flooding, infectious and vector-borne diseases, and potable water supplies.

3. (a) Recognizes the importance of physician involvement in policymaking at the state, national, and global level and supports efforts to search for novel, comprehensive, and economically sensitive approaches to mitigating climate change to protect the health of the public; and (b) recognizes that whatever the etiology of global climate change, policymakers should work to reduce human contributions to such changes.
4. Encourages physicians to assist in educating patients and the public on the physical and mental health effects of climate change and on environmentally sustainable practices, and to serve as role models for promoting environmental sustainability.
5. Encourages physicians to work with local and state health departments to strengthen the public health infrastructure to ensure that the global health effects of climate change can be anticipated and responded to more efficiently, and that adaptation interventions are equitable and prioritize the needs of the populations most at risk.
6. Supports epidemiological, translational, clinical and basic science research necessary for evidence-based global climate change policy decisions related to health care and treatment.
7. Encourages physicians to assess for environmental determinants of health in patient history-taking and encourages the incorporation of assessment for environmental determinants of health in patient history-taking into physician training.

Climate Change Education Across the Medical Education Continuum H-135.919

Our AMA: (1) supports teaching on climate change in undergraduate, graduate, and continuing medical education such that trainees and practicing physicians acquire a basic knowledge of the science of climate change, can describe the risks that climate change poses to human health, and counsel patients on how to protect themselves from the health risks posed by climate change; (2) will make available a prototype presentation and lecture notes on the intersection of climate change and health for use in undergraduate, graduate, and continuing medical education; and (3) will communicate this policy to the appropriate accrediting organizations such as the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation and the Liaison Committee on Medical Education.

Declaring Climate Change a Public Health Crisis D-135.966

1. Our AMA declares climate change a public health crisis that threatens the health and well-being of all individuals.
2. Our AMA will protect patients by advocating for policies that: (a) limit global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, (b) reduce US greenhouse gas emissions aimed at carbon neutrality by 2050, and (c) support rapid implementation and incentivization of clean energy solutions and significant investments in climate resilience through a climate justice lens.
3. Our AMA will develop a strategic plan for how we will enact our climate change policies including advocacy priorities and strategies to decarbonize physician practices and the health sector with report back to the House of Delegates at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

Climate Change and Human Health D-135.963

1. Our AMA declares climate change a public health crisis that threatens the health and well-being of all individuals.
2. Our AMA will protect patients by advocating for policies that: (a) limit global warming to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius, (b) reduce US greenhouse gas emissions aimed at a 50 percent reduction in emissions by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050, and (c) support rapid implementation and incentivization of clean energy solutions and significant investments in climate resilience through a climate justice lens.
3. Our AMA will consider signing on to the Department of Health and Human Services Health Care Pledge or making a similar commitment to lower its own greenhouse gas emissions.
4. Our AMA encourages the health sector to lead by example in committing to carbon neutrality by 2050.
5. Our AMA will develop a strategic plan for how we will enact our climate change policies including advocacy priorities and strategies to decarbonize physician practices and the health sector with report back to the House of Delegates at the 2023 Annual Meeting.

AMA Advocacy for Environmental Sustainability and Climate H-135.923

Our AMA (1) supports initiatives to promote environmental sustainability and other efforts to halt global climate change; (2) will incorporate principles of environmental sustainability within its business operations; and (3) supports physicians in adopting programs for environmental sustainability in their practices and help physicians to share these concepts with their patients and with their communities.

Stewardship of the Environment H-135.973

The AMA: (1) encourages physicians to be spokespersons for environmental stewardship, including the discussion of these issues when appropriate with patients; (2) encourages the medical community to cooperate in reducing or recycling waste; (3) encourages physicians and the rest of the medical community to dispose of its medical waste in a safe and properly prescribed manner; (4) supports enhancing the role of physicians and other scientists in environmental education; (5) endorses legislation such as the National Environmental Education Act to increase public understanding of environmental degradation and its prevention; (6) encourages research efforts at ascertaining the physiological and psychological effects of abrupt as well as chronic environmental changes; (7) encourages international exchange of information relating to environmental degradation and the adverse human health effects resulting from environmental degradation; (8) encourages and helps support physicians who participate actively in international planning and development conventions associated with improving the environment; (9) encourages educational programs for worldwide family planning and control of population growth; (10) encourages research and development programs for safer, more effective, and less expensive means of preventing unwanted pregnancy; (11) encourages programs to prevent or reduce the human and environmental health impact from global climate change and environmental degradation.(12) encourages economic development programs for all nations that will be sustainable and yet nondestructive to the environment; (13) encourages physicians and environmental scientists in the United States to continue to incorporate concerns for human health into current environmental research and public policy initiatives; (14) encourages physician educators in medical schools, residency programs, and continuing medical education sessions to devote more attention to environmental health issues; (15) will strengthen its liaison with appropriate environmental health agencies, including the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS); (16) encourages expanded funding for environmental research by the federal government; and (17) encourages family planning through national and international support.

Sources:

1. AMA: Declaring Climate Change a Public Health Crisis D-135.966 <https://policysearch.ama-assn.org/policyfinder/detail/climate%20change?uri=%2FAMADoc%2Fdirectives.xml-D-135.966.xml>
2. Haines A,Ebi Kristie, The Imperative for Climate Action to Protect Health, N Engl J Med 2019; 380: 263-73.