

THE ARIZONA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC

Report of the Reference Committee

Presented by Ricardo Correa, MD Chair

Voting members of the Arizona Medical Association, the ArMA Reference Committee, offers the following report and recommendations on the four (4) proposals submitted.

ArMA's Reference Committee took all comments submitted online into consideration and also offered a virtual Zoom session for additional testimony. *The recommendations outlined below have been shared with all authors, and the authors support the amendments proposed by the Reference Committee.*

Resolution Q4-01-2023 Social Determinants of Health

The Committee recommends this policy not be adopted. All online comments submitted by members (other than the author) noted strong opposition to the resolution. ArMA has existing policies regarding Social Determinants of Health that recognize the importance of non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. However, this proposal, as drafted, is not compatible with current evidence and could have long-term implications that lead to worse outcomes.

Resolved, that ArMA will actively oppose any governmental rules or programs that will tend to downgrade SDOH, such as by causing scarcity or increased prices of housing, electricity, private transportation, or food such as meat and dairy products.

Resolution Q4-02-2023 Improving Veteran Mental Health in Arizona

After reviewing all comments, with an overwhelming majority of them being in support of this policy proposal, the Reference Committee is recommending adopting this policy as written.

Resolved, that ArMA supports physician and healthcare provider education on the recognition, referral, and treatment of stress disorders in veterans in the state of Arizona; and be it further

Resolved, that ArMA supports the removal of barriers in receiving mental health care for veterans; and be it further

Resolved, that ArMA supports efforts to increase the mental health workforce to address the mental health professional shortfalls.

Resolution Q4-03-2023 Predatory Group Homes Targeting Native Americans

The Committee applauded the author's desire to bring this issue to ArMA. During the online comment period, there were a number of comments from fellow members that supported the concept of more regulation of group homes. However, as submitted, the requested action is outside the scope of ArMA's mission. The Committee recommends the policy be adopted by substitution and retitled.

Resolved, The Arizona Medical Association will pledge to identify safe, credible group homes for Native American patients seeking housing options and report facilities suspected of committing fraud.

New Title: Regulation of Group Homes

Substitute Resolved, that the Arizona Medical Association supports legislation that more carefully regulates group homes in Arizona.

THE ARIZONA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC

Report of the Reference Committee

Presented by Ricardo Correa, MD Chair

Resolution Q4-04-2023 Effectiveness of Risk Mitigation Visits on Nonelective Emergency Room Visits

During the online comment period, it was suggested that part of this resolution is beyond ArMA's purview. Based on the comments from our membership, the Reference Committee recommends striking the second and third resolves and amending the first resolve by striking "and provide better" after "ArMA support." By amending the Resolved, the Committee also recommends changing the title.

New Title: Education on Long-Term Opioid Therapy (LOT) in the Outpatient Setting

Resolved, that the Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) supports ~~and provide better~~ physician education regarding the use of risk mitigation strategies when seeing patients with chronic pain and using Long-Term Opioid Therapy (LOT) in the Outpatient setting to avoid the risk of Emergency Room admissions.;
~~and be it further~~

~~**Resolved,** that ArMA ensure that Outpatient Primary Care practices be provided adequate time and resources to perform risk mitigation assessments in LOT patients; and be it further~~

~~**Resolved,** that ArMA pledges to increase and expand outpatient multidisciplinary facilities, which include pain specialists, therapists, and primary care providers in the state that provide and manage care for patients with chronic pain on LOT.~~

This concludes the report of the ArMA Reference Committee. I wish to express my appreciation to Drs. Miriam Anand, Katherine Glaser, Nadeem Kazi, and Heidi Tavel for their participation and thoughtful deliberations. The Committee would also like to thank the ArMA members who participated in the comment period for these resolutions.