Actions of the 2017 House of Delegates

Resolution No. 1-17  
Title: “Policy on Rising Cost of Medical Education” [Reaffirmation of Resolution No. 21-03 and 7-10]  
HOD Action: Adopted by Unanimous Consent

Substitute Resolution No. 2-17  
Title: “Uniform Physician Credentials Verification”  
HOD Action: Adopted

Resolution No. 3-17  
Title: “Mid Level Provider Supervision”  
HOD Action: Referred to the Board as Amended

Resolution No. 4-17  
Title: “Board of Medical Examiners’ Independence” [Reaffirmation of Resolution No. 12-10]  
HOD Action: Adopted by Unanimous Consent

Resolution No. 5-17  
Title: “Tennessee State Parks ‘Healthy Parks, Healthy People’”  
Author: Charles T. Womack, MD, Upper Cumberland Medical Society  
HOD Action: Adopted as Amended

Resolution No. 6-17  
Title: “Media Campaign for Physician-Led Team Model”  
Author: Conrad Brimhall, MD, Lakeway Medical Society  
HOD Action: Adopted

Resolution No. 7-17  
Title: “Discontinuation of Association Grievance Process”  
Author: Glenn Newman, MD, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society  
HOD Action: Adopted

Resolution No. 8-17  
Title: “Faith and Mental Health”  
Author: Vijaya L. Appareddy, MD, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society  
HOD Action: Referred to the Board as Amended

Resolution No. 9-17  
Title: “Definition of a Doctor”  
Author: Karin Covi, MD, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society  
HOD Action: Adopted as Amended

Resolution No. 10-17  
Title: “Medical Trainee Wellness”  
Author: Jessica Ruff, MD, MA, Nashville Academy of Medicine  
HOD Action: Referred to the Board as Amended

Resolution No. 11-17  
Title: “Unfair Reimbursement by Insurance Companies”  
Author: Sally Willard Burbank, MD, Nashville Academy of Medicine  
HOD Action: Referred to the Board as Amended

Resolution No. 12-17  
Title: “The Impact of Virtual Violence on Children in Tennessee”  
Author: Caleb M. Steffen, MD, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Medical Society  
HOD Action: Adopted as Amended

Resolution No. 13-17  
HOD Action: Adopted as Amended
Title: “Weaning Programs and Addiction as a Part of Opioid Prescribing Course”
Author: O. Lee Berkenstock, MD, Memphis Medical Society

Resolution No. 14-17  HOD Action: Adopted as Amended
Title: “Texting as Approved HIPAA Form of Communication”
Author: O. Lee Berkenstock, MD, Memphis Medical Society

Resolution No. 15-17  HOD Action: Not Adopted
Title: “Mandatory Cell Phone Deactivation in Moving Vehicles”
Author: Phillip R. Langsdon, MD, FACS, Memphis Medical Society

Resolution No. 16-17  HOD Action: Referred to the Board
Title: “Primary Care in Rural Tennessee”
Author: Raj Budati, Ex-Officio

Resolution No. 17-17  HOD Action: Not Adopted
Title: “Due Process Within the Division of Health Related Boards”
Author: George Woodbury, Jr., MD, Memphis Medical Society

Resolution No. 18-17  HOD Action: Adopted
Title: “Hospital Overcrowding”
Author: Chris Young, MD, Ex-Officio

Resolution No. 19-17  HOD Action: Adopted as Amended
Title: “Opioid Prescriber Responsibility”
Author: Chris Young, MD, Ex-Officio

Resolution No 20-17  HOD Action: Adopted
Title: “Modifying AMA Mission Statement”
Author: Ronald Kirkland, MD, MBA, Consolidated Medical Assembly of West Tennessee

Resolution 21-17  HOD Action: Withdrew by Author

Resolution 22-17  HOD Action: Referred to the Board
Title: “CME Credit for Physician Participation in Leadership Activities”
Author: Elise Denneny, MD, Ex-Officio

Resolution 23-17  HOD Action: Adopted
Title: “GME Support of Leadership Training”
Author: Patrick McFarland, MD, Knoxville Academy of Medicine

Resolution 24-17  HOD Action: Adopted as Amended
Title: “The Creation of Innovative Opportunities to Improve Health Literacy”
Author: John W. Lacey, MD, Knoxville Academy of Medicine

Resolution 25-17  HOD Action: Adopted
Title: “Independent Practice of Physician Assistants”
Author: Adrian Rodriguez, MD, Knoxville Academy of Medicine
Resolution 26-17  
HOD Action: **Adopted as Amended**  
Title: “Emergency Funding For Vital Patient Care Service”  
Author: Bob Vegors, MD, Tennessee Chapter of American College of Physicians

Resolution 27-17  
HOD Action: **Adopted as Amended**  
Title: “Cost of Prescription Drugs”  
Author: Bob Vegors, MD, Tennessee Chapter of American College of Physicians

Resolution 28-17  
HOD Action: **Adopted**  
Title: “Protecting the Professionalism of Hospital Employed Physicians”  
Author: Chris Young, MD

Resolution 29-17  
HOD Action: **Referred to the Board as Amended**  
Title: “Prior Approval Process Reform”  
Author: W. Clay Jackson, MD, DIPTH, Memphis Medical Society
RESOLVED. That the Tennessee Medical Association urge its members to contact the governor, state legislature, and the universities to urge improvement in the funding of medical education.

Sunset: 2024
RESOLVED. That the Tennessee Medical Association make it an association priority to avail members of a process to make the completion of credentialing applications to Tennessee health care facilities and health insurance carriers measurably easier and report back to the 2018 House of Delegates as to its progress.

Sunset: 2024
RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association support the need for improved supervision of midlevel providers in order that the General Assembly does not pass legislation giving Advanced Practice Nurses or Physician Assistants independent practice in Tennessee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association support legislation to repeal the Tennessee Code provision requiring that Advanced Practice Nurse supervision rules be promulgated upon concurrence of the Board of Medical Examiners and Board of Nursing and that the Board of Medical Examiners, or a composite board consisting of members of the Board of Medical Examiners and Board of Nursing, be given the sole authority to promulgate physician supervision rules of Advanced Practice Nurse; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association urge the Board of Medical Examiners to promulgate rules that will improve documentation and verification that appropriate physician supervision is taking place.

Sunset: 2024
ADOPTED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT APRIL 29, 2017

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 04-17

INTRODUCED BY: TMA BOARD OF TRUSTEES
                JAMES H. BATSON, MD, CHAIR

SUBJECT: BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS’ INDEPENDENCE
         (REAFIRMATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 12-10)

REFERRED TO: CONSENT CALENDAR

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association (TMA) House of Delegates strongly believes that the regulation of medicine in Tennessee could be strengthened and improved by establishing the Board of Medical Examiners as an independent entity with limited oversight by state government, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association (TMA) pursue a legislative remedy that would establish the Board of Medical Examiners as an independent entity with limited oversight by state government, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the monies to support the independent Board of Medical Examiners activities come from the current license fee of individual physicians.

Sunset: 2024
ADOPTED AS AMENDED APRIL 29, 2017

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 05-17

INTRODUCED BY: CHARLES T. WOMACK, MD, DELEGATE
UPPER CUMBERLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

SUBJECT: TENNESSEE STATE PARKS “HEALTHY PARKS, HEALTHY PEOPLE”

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association recognize and support Healthy Parks, Healthy People program of the National Park Service and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation as a valuable healing tool and a vital component of healthy living; and be it further

RESOLVED, That TMA seek the support of the Tennessee Hospital Association to recognize and support the Healthy Parks, Healthy People program.

Sunset: 2024
ADOPTED APRIL 29, 2017

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 06-17

INTRODUCED BY: CONRAD BRIMHALL, MD, DELEGATE
LAKEWAY MEDICAL SOCIETY

SUBJECT: MEDIA CAMPAIGN FOR PHYSICIAN-LED TEAM MODEL

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association Board of Trustees is urged to fund and implement a statewide media campaign to educate the public about the differences in health care providers and how to choose a health care setting that utilizes a physician-led health care team.

Sunset: 2024
ADOPTED APRIL 29, 2017

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 07-17

INTRODUCED BY:  GLENN NEWMAN, MD, DELEGATE
                 CHATTANOOGA-HAMILTON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

SUBJECT:  DISCONTINUATION OF ASSOCIATION GRIEVANCE PROCESS

RESOLVED,  That Tennessee Medical Association component societies and its Judicial Council cease conducting peer review; and be it further

RESOLVED,  That all Tennessee Medical Association and component society bylaw provisions referencing a grievance process hereby be repealed; and be it further

RESOLVED,  That Tennessee Medical Association and component society staff be instructed to direct all future grievances to the Department of Health Investigations Division.

Sunset: 2024
REFERRED TO THE BOARD AS AMENDED APRIL 29, 2017

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 08-17

INTRODUCED BY: VIJAYA APPAREDDY, MD, DELEGATE
CHATTANOOGA-HAMILTON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

SUBJECT:  FAITH AND MENTAL HEALTH

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association endorse mental health and faith community partnerships that will provide a platform for faith leaders to get educated about psychiatric and substance abuse disorders and mental health providers understand the role of faith in recovery; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association endorse a partnership to foster respectful, collaborative relationships between psychiatrists, other mental health providers and the faith-based community to improve quality care for individuals and families with mental health and substance abuse problems.

Sunset: 2024
ADOPTED AS AMENDED APRIL 29, 2017

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 09-17

INTRODUCED BY: KARIN COVI, MD, DELEGATE
CHATTANOOGA-HAMILTON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

SUBJECT: DEFINITION OF A DOCTOR

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association develop a campaign for public and legislative awareness to clarify the evolving problem of use of the term “doctor” by non-physician health care professionals

Sunset: 2024
Resolved, That the Tennessee Medical Association will continue to support physician health via the promotion of education and training on physician wellness and burnout; and be it further

Resolved, That the Tennessee Medical Association will assign a board committee to review confidential annual online depression screening tools, their effectiveness, and cost; and be it further

Resolved, That this committee will also reach out to Tennessee medical training programs and other related organizations such as the Tennessee Medical Foundation, and the Tennessee Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network to assess their interest in partnering to tackle this issue; and be it further

Resolved, That this committee will also work to develop and launch a pilot program to monitor and refer medical trainees for appropriate assistance by conducting a confidential annual online depression screening of current medical trainees; and be it further

Resolved, That this committee will report back to the board and the 2018 House of Delegates regarding the progress and feasibility of the Tennessee Medical Association leading the effort to conduct annual online depression screenings of current medical students and residents.

Sunset: 2024
INTRODUCED BY: SALLY WILLARD BURBANK, MD, DELEGATE
NASHVILLE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

SUBJECT: UNFAIR REIMBURSEMENT BY INSURANCE COMPANIES

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association file a formal grievance to the insurance commissioner that insurance companies are refusing to pay providers who join a group practice the same rates as the other providers in the group of the same specialty; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association request that the insurance commissioner insist new members who join a group practice be reimbursed at the same rate as others in the same specialty of that group.

Sunset: 2024
RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association delegation call on state legislators to acknowledge the scientifically proven, harmful effects of media violence, particularly those of violent video games, by requiring retailers to place a warning label on violent video games whose predominant theme is killing (e.g. first person shooters). Labels would be structured to be scientifically accurate and accessible to individuals with an elementary reading proficiency. (See example.), and be it further

RESOLVED, That the "Take the Challenge" curriculum (based on Stanford’s S.M.A.R.T. Curriculum) or a similar evidence-based program be embraced by the Tennessee Medical Association and promoted to the state legislature for implementation as mandatory curriculum for K – 12 students within Tennessee’s public schools, with participation availability for students in alternative educational settings (e.g. private school, homeschool).

Example Warning Label:

Video game violence is known by the State of Tennessee to be harmful for children. Children who play games like this tend to be more aggressive and less sensitive to the suffering of others. Addiction is common.

Need help with your child’s aggression or addiction?”
Visit http://www.med.umich.edu/yourchild/topics/tv.htm

Sunset: 2024
TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 13-17

INTRODUCED BY: O. LEE BERKENSTOCK, MD, DELEGATE
MEMPHIS MEDICAL SOCIETY

SUBJECT: WEANING PROGRAMS AND ADDICTION PROGRAMS AS A PART OF OPIOID
PRESCRIBING COURSE

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association support inclusion of information on
withdrawal and tapering of medications in the state-mandated Continuing
Medical Education for controlled substances.

Sunset: 2024
ADOPTED AS AMENDED APRIL 29, 2017

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 14-17

INTRODUCED BY: O. LEE BERKENSTOCK, MD, DELEGATE
MEMPHIS MEDICAL SOCIETY

SUBJECT: TEXTING AS APPROVED HIPAA FORM OF COMMUNICATION

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) propose a resolution to the June meeting of the AMA House of Delegates, working through federal agencies, to establish texting as a HIPAA-approved mode of communication embedded within electronic communication devices amongst health care providers and patient-consumers.

Sunset: 2024
REFERRED TO THE BOARD APRIL 29, 2017

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 16-17

INTRODUCED BY: RAJ BUDATI, EX-OFFICIO

SUBJECT: PRIMARY CARE IN RURAL TENNESSEE

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association, in collaboration with appropriate bodies, study what aspects helped physicians decide to practice primary care in a rural setting, and also try to identify what factors sparked their interest in rural medicine to begin with.

Sunset: 2024
ADOPTED APRIL 29, 2017

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 18-17

INTRODUCED BY:  CHRIS YOUNG, MD, EX-OFFICIO DELEGATE

SUBJECT:  HOSPITAL OVERCROWDING

RESOLVED.  That our Tennessee Medical Association identifies hospital over-crowding as a public health issue, and will seek to form a task force with the Tennessee Hospital Association, Tennessee Department of Health, and other pertinent stakeholders to study the issue and develop mitigation strategies.

Sunset: 2024
ADOPTED AS AMENDED APRIL 29, 2017

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 19-17

INTRODUCED BY: CHRIS YOUNG, MD, EX-OFFICIO DELEGATE

SUBJECT: OPIOID PRESCRIBER RESPONSIBILITY

RESOLVED, That our Tennessee Medical Association will work to educate prescribers about proper prescribing and the dangers of excess opiate prescribing in the acute care setting; and be it further

RESOLVED, That our Tennessee Medical Association will encourage prescribers to develop an acute pain care plan with their patients to tailor the quantity of opiates prescribed to what is expected to be consumed and the necessity to properly dispose of any unused medication; and be it further

RESOLVED, That our Tennessee Medical Association will work with the Tennessee Pharmacy Association, Tennessee Department of Health, Drug Enforcement Agency and other pertinent stakeholders to develop simpler and more convenient resources for proper opiate and other drug disposal.

Sunset: 2024
ADOPTED APRIL 29, 2017

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 20-17

INTRODUCED: RONALD H. KIRKLAND, MD, MBA, DELEGATE
CONSOLIDATED MEDICAL ASSEMBLY OF WEST TENNESSEE

SUBJECT: MODIFYING AMA MISSION STATEMENT

RESOLVED, That our Tennessee Delegation to the American Medical Association House of Delegates will present a resolution at the A-17 meeting of the American Medical Association House of Delegates requiring the American Medical Association Board of Trustees to change the American Medical Association mission statement to read “The American Medical Association promotes the art and science of medicine, the betterment of public health, and the improvement and accessibility of health care to our patients”. And be it further

RESOLVED, That this change will be accomplished and reported back to the American Medical Association House of Delegates at I-17.

Sunset: 2024
RESOLVED. That the Tennessee Medical Association explore possible remediation such as CME Category 1 credit or other of equal value for participation in leadership activities.

Sunset: 2024
ADOPTED APRIL 29, 2017

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 23-17

INTRODUCED BY:  PATRICK MCFARLAND, MD, DELEGATE
                  KNOXVILLE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

SUBJECT:  GME SUPPORT OF LEADERSHIP TRAINING

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association propose that Graduate Medical Education (GME) incorporate training pathways for leadership and/or advocacy where participation in advocacy efforts and community health activities meet milestones for physician leadership; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the proposal should emphasize participation in organized medicine and/or other physician advocacy and leadership training experiences during residency training, protecting time during residency training to allow those residents that wish to participate to do so; and developing a resident physician advocacy and leadership tract that may be completed during residency training, in any and all specialties, in order to increase awareness of such opportunities and encourage overall participation in organized medicine during residency and after its completion.

Sunset:  2024
ADOPTED AS AMENDED

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 24-17

INTRODUCED BY:  JOHN W. LACEY, MD, DELEGATE
                 KNOXVILLE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

SUBJECT:  THE CREATION OF INNOVATIVE OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE HEALTH LITERACY

RESOLVED,  That the Tennessee Medical Association increase awareness of its members regarding the impact of low health literacy on children and adults in Tennessee by publishing an online editorial on this matter with links to supporting information on websites of coordinated school health (Department of Education) and the Tennessee Department of Health.

Sunset:  2024
ADOPTED APRIL 29, 2017

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 25-17

INTRODUCED BY:   ADRIAN RODRIGUEZ, MD
                  NASHVILLE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

SUBJECT:         INDEPENDENT PRACTICE OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association oppose efforts authorizing the independent practice of physician assistants in Tennessee.

Sunset: 2024
ADOPTED AS AMENDED APRIL 29, 2017

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 26-17

INTRODUCED BY: BOB VEGORS, MD, DELEGATE
TENNESSEE CHAPTER OF AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY FUNDING FOR VITAL PATIENT CARE SERVICE

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association urge the Governor and the Tennessee Legislature to create an emergency funding mechanism to provide an appropriate reimbursement to physicians, hospitals, and other providers for vital patient care services that would no longer be covered by the Federal government.

Sunset: 2024
ADOPTED AS AMENDED APRIL 29, 2017

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 27-17

INTRODUCED BY: BOB VEGORS, MD, DELEGATE
TENNESSEE CHAPTER OF AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

SUBJECT: COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

RESOLVED, That Tennessee Medical Association urge legislation requiring that the patient co-pay or tier level of a particular drug listed in the insurance sign up period by the pharmacy benefits management be fixed at that co-pay or tier level for the remaining 12 months.

Sunset: 2024
ADOPTED APRIL 29, 2017

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 28-17

INTRODUCED BY: CHRIS YOUNG, MD, EX-OFFICIO

SUBJECT: PROTECTING THE PROFESSIONALISM OF HOSPITAL EMPLOYED PHYSICIANS

RESOLVED, That our Tennessee Medical Association will work with the Tennessee Hospital Association to establish best practices to directly address potential conflicts of physician employment and the professional responsibility of patient advocacy in hospitals by physicians; and be it further

RESOLVED, That our Tennessee Medical Association will work to re-establish an active Organized Medical Staff Section or committee within the Association.

Sunset: 2024
TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 29-17

INTRODUCED BY: W. CLAY JACKSON, MD, DIPTH, DELEGATE
MEMPHIS MEDICAL SOCIETY

SUBJECT: PRIOR APPROVAL PROCESS REFORM

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association House of Delegates officially opposes the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee (BCBSTN) prior approval process as currently constituted, and specifically encourages its members to NOT comply with the demand to submit to BCBSTN representatives records from the Tennessee Controlled Substances Monitoring Database, which is a violation of Tennessee statute; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association House of Delegates requests that BCBSTN form a multidisciplinary committee (including Tennessee Medical Association representation) to review the prior approval process in order to achieve the proper goals of maintaining patient access, limiting clinician administrative burden, complying with current Tennessee law, and promoting best practices; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this issue will be referred to the TMA Board for initiating action and expedient engagement with BCBSTN.

Sunset: 2024