

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 009  
(I-14)

Introduced by: Gregory L. Pinto, MD, Delegate, New York

Subject: The AMA Must Proclaim its Support for Health Care for All, Regardless of Age

Referred to: Reference Committee on Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws  
(Mary E. LaPlante, MD, Chair)

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- 1 Whereas, Physicians are trained to value human life in all its forms, regardless of age or  
2 physical or mental infirmity; and  
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4 Whereas, Patients rightfully expect that their physicians would respect their wishes to continue  
5 living despite advanced age or any physical or mental infirmity; and  
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7 Whereas, Dr. Ezekiel Emanuel's article in *The Atlantic* (September 17, 2014) expressed an  
8 opinion that life is less valuable with advancing age; and  
9  
10 Whereas, Such a sentiment is even more disturbing because it comes from one of the architects  
11 of national health care policy; and  
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13 Whereas, It is the policy of our AMA to preserve the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship; and  
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15 Whereas, The recent nature of the release of the aforementioned article makes this an issue  
16 that must be addressed by our AMA in a timely fashion; therefore be it  
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18 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association issue a statement publicly disagreeing  
19 with the sentiments expressed by Dr. Emanuel in his article in *The Atlantic* (September 17,  
20 2014) (Directive to Take Action); and be it further  
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22 RESOLVED, That our AMA issue a statement proclaiming its Code of Ethics as the basis for  
23 disagreeing with Dr. Emanuel's expressed opinions in his recent article in *The Atlantic*  
24 (September 17, 2014):  
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26 I. A physician shall be dedicated to providing competent medical care, with  
27 compassion and respect for human dignity and rights.  
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29 VIII. A physician shall, while caring for a patient, regard responsibility to the patient as  
30 paramount.  
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32 IX. A physician shall support access to medical care for all people [without regard to  
33 age]. (Directive to Take Action); and be it further  
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35 RESOLVED, That our AMA urge the AMA Foundation to make clear to all award recipients that  
36 the bestowing of an award does not mean that our AMA endorses every position espoused by  
37 the award recipient (Directive to Take Action); and be it further

- 1 RESOLVED, That our AMA urge the AMA Foundation to rescind the Isaac Hays, MD, and
- 2 James Bell, MD, Award for Leadership in Medical Ethics and Professionalism it bestowed on Dr.
- 3 Emanuel. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than \$1,000.

Received: 10/07/14