AAFP 2014 Consent Calendar for the Reference Committee on Health of the Public and Science

National Conference of Special Constituencies—Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center

The Reference Committee on Health of the Public and Science recommends the following consent calendar for adoption (page numbers indicate page in reference committee report):

RECOMMENDATION: The Reference Committee on Health of the Public and Science recommends the following consent calendar for adoption:

Item 1: Adopt Substitute Resolution No. 3003 "Universal Affordable High Quality Preschool Education" in lieu of Resolution No. 3003 (pp. 1-2).

Item 2: Adopt Resolution No. 3004 "Locally Grown Foods in Schools" (p. 2).

Item 3: Adopt Substitute Resolution No. 3001 "Education Concerning Social Determinants Affecting Health" in lieu of Resolution No. 3001 (pp. 2-3).

Item 4: Adopt Resolution No. 3006 "Support Modification of the Ban on Men Who Have Sex with Men Blood & Organ Donation" (p. 3).

Item 5: Adopt and Refer to Board of Directors Resolution No. 3009 "Medicaid and Medicare Coverage for United States Preventative Services Task Force and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Recommended Services" (pp. 3-4).

Item 6: Adopt Substitute Resolution No. 3007 "Health Impact of Gentrification on Minority Communities" in lieu of Resolution No. 3007 (p. 4).

Item 7: Adopt Resolution No. 3008 "Raising the Minimum Wage" (p. 5).

Item 8: Adopt Substitute Resolution No. 3002 "Promote Emergency Contraception (EC) That Is Effective Regardless of Body Mass Index (BMI)" in lieu of Resolution No. 3002 (pp. 5-6).

Item 9: Not Adopt Resolution No. 3005 "Supporting the Development of Education Materials Regarding the Recreational Use of Marijuana Based on Scientific Evidence" (p. 6).

Item 10: Not Adopt Resolution No. 3010 "Promoting Annual Wellness Visits for Women: You're More than Just a Cervix" (pp. 6-7).

2014 Report of the Reference Committee on Health of the Public & Science

National Conference of Special Constituencies—Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center

The Reference Committee on Health of the Public & Science has considered each of the items referred to it and submits the following report. The committee's recommendations will be submitted as a consent calendar and voted on in one vote. Any item or items may be extracted for debate.

ITEM NO. 1: RESOLUTION NO. 3003: UNIVERSAL AFFORDABLE HIGH QUALITY PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support policies that establish, promote and improve funding for universal affordable high-quality preschool education for all children in the United States, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support state chapters efforts to establish and promote universal affordable high quality preschool education for all children in the United States, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians send a letter to the United States Department of Education explaining the importance of the effects of universal preschool education on the health of children and communities.

The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution indicating that high quality education to all American children is effective in reducing health disparities. The executive committee discussed the literature on health disparities and how disparities affect those in the urban core and vulnerable populations. The American Academy of Pediatrics has a policy on universal preschool education. The executive committee asked that the AAFP's policy entitled, "Social Determinants of Health", be updated to reflect the inclusion of universal preschool education for all children in the United States or create a new policy that encourages universal preschool education.

Moreover, it was requested the AAFP write a letter to the United States Department of Education validating the importance of preschool education. AAFP chapters would be able to use this letter as a template to write to state legislatures about universal preschool education.

RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Substitute Resolution No. 3003, which reads as follows, be adopted in lieu of Resolution No. 3003:

RESOLVED, That American Academy of Family Physicians create a policy that supports the establishment, promotion, and improvement of funding for universal affordable high-quality preschool education for all children in the United States, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians support the efforts of state chapters to establish and promote universal affordable high quality preschool education for all children in the United States, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians send a letter to the United States Department of Education explaining the importance of the effects of universal preschool education on the health of children and communities.

ITEM NO. 2: RESOLUTION NO. 3004: LOCALLY GROWN FOODS IN SCHOOLS

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians School Nutrition Policy be amended to include that the AAFP advocate for the promotion of locally grown foods in schools.

The reference committee heard testimony that supported efforts to include information about the positive health effects experienced by school children who consume locally grown food that can be used in school lunch programs. It was also reported that children involved in tending to school gardens make healthier food choices. This, in turn, helps reduce the obesity rate by providing healthy alternatives to vending machines that contain unhealthy snacks and soda. Children who consume healthy food also have better focus in school.

The reference committee recommends adoption of the resolution based on the association that consumption of healthy food improves the physical and psychosocial health of children. The AAFP will add language to the current policy entitled, "School Nutrition", to read as follows:

The AAFP believes that sound nutrition is a cornerstone of health and should be reflected in all dietary offerings in schools, (e.g., food service, meals, vending, outside contractors, etc.). Items of little or no nutritional value should be replaced with healthy alternatives**, including locally produced foods**.

RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 3004 be adopted.

ITEM NO. 3: RESOLUTION NO. 3001: EDUCATION CONCERNING SOCIAL DETERMINANTS AFFECTING HEALTH

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians Commission on Education explore options to better educate the membership on the social determinants affecting health status such as education, income, housing, racial and ethnic inequities, transportation, and environment.

The reference committee heard favorable testimony on how health is affected based on social determinants of health. Many family physicians may not be aware of the research on how social determinants affect patient health or why some patients lack the motivation to improve their health. The Commission on Education is being asked to explore the options available to educate AAFP members, such as a monograph or continuing medical education.

The executive committee decided that the Commission on Education was not necessarily the appropriate venue through which resources would be developed for members.

RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Substitute Resolution No. 3001, which reads as follows, be adopted in lieu of Resolution No. 3001:

> **RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians explore options to better educate the membership on the social determinants affecting health status, such as education, income, housing, racial and ethnic inequities, transportation, and environment.**

ITEM NO. 4: RESOLUTION NO. 3006: SUPPORT MODIFICATION OF THE BAN ON MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN BLOOD & ORGAN DONATION

> RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians write a letter to the Federal Drug Administration and the Health & Human Services Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability supporting the modification of the lifetime deferral for men who have sex with men in regards to the donation of human cells, blood, tissues, organs and cellular- and tissue-based products.

The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution. It was mentioned that there is an increased need for human blood and organs and there is a decreased in the availability of both. The Food and Drug Administration and American Medical Association indicated that a lifetime ban be amended and current policy is discriminatory against men who have sex with men.

The executive committee discussed that the decision to ban men who have had sex with men as organ and blood donors should be based on evidence-based guidelines. The recommendations from the American Association of Blood Banks, the American Red Cross, America's Blood Centers, The Council on Science and Public Health, and the Council on Ethical and Judicial Affairs agree that blood and organ donations from men who have sex with men should be reconsidered. Based on the recommendation from the aforementioned organizations, the executive committee decided that the AAFP should write a letter to the Federal Drug Administration and Health and Human Services Advisory Committee on Blood and Tissue Safety and Availability to modify the lifetime ban on blood and organ donation by men who have sex with men.

RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Resolution 3006 be adopted.

ITEM NO. 5: RESOLUTION NO. 3009: MEDICAID AND MEDICARE COVERAGE FOR UNITED STATES PREVENTATIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON IMMUNIZATION PRACTICES RECOMMENDED SERVICES

> RESOLVED, That a resolution be brought to the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Congress of Delegates that the AAFP advocate for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to fully cover all United States Preventative Services Task Force and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended preventative services, and be it further
>
> RESOLVED, That a resolution be brought to the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Congress of Delegates that the AAFP advocate for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to fully cover the cost of United States Preventative

Services Task Force and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommended preventative services.

The reference committee heard testimony in favor of the resolution. Testimony included support for full coverage of vaccinations because patients may lose trust in physicians who recommend services that may not be covered or a paid benefit. The United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends immunizations as part of recommended services that patients should have.

The executive committee determined that this is an important patient advocacy issue as well as a payment issue for family physicians. Services based on and recommended by the USPSTF and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices may not be in sync with what is recommended by the AAFP. The executive committee is asking which preventive services should be covered versus what Medicare and the Patient Protection and Affordability Care Act (PPACA) indicates should be covered as part of recommended services.

RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 3009 be adopted and referred to the American Academy of Family Physicians Board of Directors.

ITEM NO. 6: RESOLUTION NO. 3007: HEALTH IMPACT OF GENTRIFICATION ON MINORITY COMMUNITIES

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians, in recognizing that gentrification affects the health of minority communities, will devote funds to conduct research via such entities such as the Graham Center to investigate how the process of gentrification impacts the health outcomes of minority populations, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians, will then translate research findings regarding the health impact of gentrification into policies that will improve the health of displaced minority communities.

The reference committee heard favorable testimony supporting the resolution because gentrification changes vulnerable populations' accessibility to affordable housing, food, and health care. As more affluent people move from suburbs to the urban or inner city, the cost ofhousing and other necessities are increasing in price. There is also concern that there may be reduced access to food and health care and displacement by vulnerable populations residing in the area. It was mentioned that funds should be devoted to research the issue.

The executive committee determined research should be done to determine how gentrification impacts the health of vulnerable populations that reside in the urban core. As new development occurs, the price of housing and other necessities increases, so that those with limited resources have a difficult time making ends meet. Based on the outcome of research, the AAFP will be asked to create a policy to address gentrification.

RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Substitute Resolution No. 3007, which reads as follows, be adopted in lieu of Resolution No. 3007:

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians request that the Robert Graham Center: Policy Studies in Family Medicine and Primary Care and other research entities investigate how the process of gentrification impacts the health outcomes of minority populations.

ITEM NO. 7: RESOLUTION NO. 3008: RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians release a public statement in support of raising the federal minimum wage to keep up with inflation, in order to help reduce health disparities, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians lobby Congress to pass legislation to raise the federal minimum wage to keep up with inflation, in order to help reduce disparities in health.

The reference committee heard testimony in support of the resolution. Poverty is one of the major social determinants of health, and the AAFP is being asked to support the increase in minimum wage.

The executive committee decided that this is a timely issue with recent discussions at the state and national levels on changes in the minimum wage law. The executive committee expressed its support for the resolution and believes an increase in minimum wage will improve financial and economic opportunities for those persons currently receiving the minimum wage.

RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 3008 be adopted.

ITEM NO. 8: RESOLUTION NO. 3002: PROMOTE EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION (EC) THAT IS EFFECTIVE REGARDLESS OF BODY MASS INDEX (BMI)

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) promote copper IUDs on their web site as the most effective method for emergency contraception and ulipristal acetate as the most effective method of oral emergency contraception, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) request the U.S. Food and Drug Administration include labeling that levonorgestrel is ineffective at a body mass index (BMI) >25 and ulipristal acetate is ineffective for emergency contraception at a BMI >35.

The reference committee heard favorable testimony for the resolution. It was reported that even with the use of contraceptives, unintended pregnancies occur. Patients and physicians may not be aware that an increase in body mass index (BMI) can decrease the efficacy of levonorgestrel when BMI is greater than 25. There was testimony that a copper IUD prevents implantation and may be considered an abortifacient, but there was other testimony that this form of emergency contraception is not an abortifacient and is considered an IUD spermicide.

The executive committee modified the resolution since an evidence review needs to be done prior to placing information on the AAFP website. It was suggested that the information about copper IUDs as an effective method of emergency contraception be communicated as a guest editorial in *American Family Physician* (*AFP*) or a letter be sent to the editor of *AFP* asking for an update to the article entitled, "An Update on Emergency Contraception" (article published April 2014). The update should include information on copper IUDs for emergency contraception.

RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Substitute Resolution No. 3002, which reads as follows, be adopted in lieu of Resolution No. 3002:

> **RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians request the United States Food and Drug Administration include labeling that oral levonorgesteral is less efficacious at a body mass index (BMI) >25 and ulipristal acetate is ineffective for emergency contraception at a BMI >35.**

ITEM NO. 9: RESOLUTION NO. 3005: SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION MATERIALS REGARDING THE RECREATIONAL USE OF MARIJUANA BASED ON SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE

> RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) develop patient-centered educational materials regarding the use of recreational marijuana based on scientific evidence.

The reference committee heard supportive testimony for the resolution. Patients ask family physicians about the recreational use of marijuana, alone or with other drugs. There is no information available on how to advise patients appropriately.

The executive committee discussed the existing research and evidence about the use of recreational marijuana. The AAFP has strict guidelines regarding the development of patient educational materials. The creation of patient education on marijuana may be perceived as tacit approval to use marijuana. It was thought that recreational use of marijuana would be in the forefront if more states adopted laws allowing recreational use. The issue has created dialogue about physician education on the topic. It was recommended that before patient education is developed, physicians need to be educated on the topic first. Research on the use of recreational marijuana needs to be conducted so education can be provided to members.

RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 3005 not be adopted.

ITEM NO. 10: RESOLUTION NO. 3010: PROMOTING ANNUAL WELLNESS VISITS FOR WOMEN: YOU'RE MORE THAN JUST A CERVIX

> RESOLVED, That the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) work to promote patient education regarding benefits of an annual wellness visit for women, including counseling on a healthy lifestyle and minimizing risk factors, age-appropriate screening, vaccinations, and maintenance of relationship with a physician; regardless of their need for cervical cancer screening.

The reference committee heard testimony in support of and against the resolution. The frequency of cervical cancer screening has decreased leading women to not schedule well woman visits as frequently. The well woman visit is important and includes more than an exam or pap smear. Patients also need sexual health care to discuss risk factors and other issues associated with overall health.

There was opposing testimony, as well, indicating there was insufficient evidence to support general health visits and that these visits do not support better health outcomes. Not all patients need to have a physical examination each year and may increase health care costs.

The executive committee decided not to adopt the resolution based on insufficient evidence supporting routine wellness visits and could be contrary to improving health and even cause harm (General Health Checks in Adult for Reducing Morbidity and Mortality from Disease, Cochrane 2012).

RECOMMENDATION: The reference committee recommends that Resolution No. 3010 not be adopted.

I wish to thank those who appeared before the reference committee to give testimony and the reference committee members for their invaluable assistance. I also wish to commend the AAFP staff for their help in the preparation of this report.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Melody Jordahl-Iafrato, MD – GLBT
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