

2015-16



Health Policies

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HEALTH ISSUES

Child and Adolescent Health

Bullying Behavior: The AMA Alliance recognizes bullying, including cyber bullying and hazing, as a major component of its violence prevention program. The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to work with state and county medical associations, law enforcement and other community groups in utilizing and disseminating materials that will help address bullying where it occurs.

Children and Obesity: In order to reduce the impact of childhood obesity, the AMA Alliance encourages efforts to impart the importance and benefits of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and reasonable weight levels, as established by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Corporal Punishment: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to work with state and county medical associations, public health agencies, departments of education, legal and judicial branches of government and other agencies to inform the public about the unacceptability of corporal punishment in schools; and that these entities be encouraged to work in tandem to develop more effective and appropriate discipline initiatives which put an end to corporal punishment in schools.

Sexuality: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to continue to promote and support the development and implementation of age-appropriate education and awareness programs on human sexuality and teen pregnancy for youth.

Advance Directives

Education: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to support programs that educate individuals, including medical families, about the need to exercise their right to control medical care decisions through advance directives.

Substance Abuse

Advertising on Television: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to promote the removal of alcoholic beverage ads from television.

Alcohol and Youth: The AMA Alliance encourages state and county alliances to support education of parents and youth (don't need the S) through public health/environmental policies and community leadership about the dangers and effects of underage alcohol use and high-risk binge drinking.

Drinking and Driving: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to support programs to educate the public about the hazards of drinking while operating motorized vehicles, machinery, and other motorized craft, and to become

involved in programs to enforce and strengthen drunk driving laws.

Substance Abuse: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to promote awareness, interaction and involvement among parents and youth of the facts and implications of marijuana, alcohol, tobacco, anabolic steroids, prescription, over the counter medications, and other harmful substances.

Substance Abuse During Pregnancy: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to support the education of women about the dangers to their unborn babies of alcohol and substance abuse while pregnant and the expansion of drug treatment facilities for the benefit of alcohol, tobacco, and drug using pregnant women.

Safe Disposal of Medication: The AMA Alliance recognizes the potential for abuse and encourages state and county alliances to support efforts to safely dispose of all unused medication through medicine “take back” programs, a household hazardous material recycling day for medicine, or disposal in the trash according to FDA guidelines for Safe Disposal of Medicine and to support efforts to educate the public about the safe storage and disposal of all medicine

Automobile Restraints

Child Safety Seats: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to develop or support public education and training programs regarding the proper use, attachment, and placement of child safety seats for children who are too small for the adult restraint system according to their weight, as deemed safe by the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. (NHTSA).

Cancer

Prostate Cancer Screening Awareness: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances across the nation to work with medical associations and societies to encourage individuals to discuss with their physician the risks and benefits of Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) screening for prostate cancer to make an informed decision about taking the test based on the best available research and national guidelines.

Child Abuse

Prevention: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to establish and support programs to help prevent child abuse as well as to promote awareness of the issue.

Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to support and promote services and education programs that encourage the prevention of severe injuries or death due to shaking a child.

Cholesterol

Testing: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to actively support programs encouraging cholesterol testing with evaluation by a physician.

Disabled

Persons: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to support the long-term goals of and for Americans with disabilities.

Diabetes

Education: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to educate the public about the symptoms of diabetes, including Type I and Type II. These programs shall promote the importance of nutrition to people with diabetes and the maintenance of optimal nutritional status, and exercise which includes desirable body weight for height. (

Disaster Preparedness

Plans: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to work with appropriate local, state, and federal officials to develop and activate state Disaster Preparedness Plans to combat biological, chemical, or nuclear terrorism and infectious disease epidemics, and to develop and support programs to educate residents about state Disaster Preparedness Plans and about the need to prepare for the basic and routine health and life sustenance needs of families in the event of natural disasters.

Eating Disorders

Education: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to support programs that educate the public about eating disorders.

Body Image in the Media: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to support programs that oppose the media's depiction of female and male body types that result in self-image distortion.

Elderly

Quality of Life: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to support programs that foster awareness and promote education about improving the quality of life for elderly people, including identification and prevention of elder abuse.

Environment

Pollution: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to support legislation and implement programs that help alleviate the impact of environmental pollution, including the safe disposal of medications and other chemicals, on public health.

Recycling: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to develop programs and projects to educate the public about the benefits of recycling and urges them to promote and practice reducing, reusing, and recycling of all recyclable products used at home and in offices.

Firearms

Gun Safety Awareness: The AMA Alliance encourages county and state Alliances to develop and support programs to educate children and adults on the safe and responsible use and storage of firearms.

Gambling

Warning: Addiction: The AMA Alliance encourages state and county Alliances to work with physicians in promoting awareness about the addictive potential of gambling, and to support advocacy efforts for states to appropriate a portion of their gambling revenue for education, prevention, and treatment of gambling addiction.

Health

Education: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to work with local, state, and national health and government agencies to support education of the public about health issues such as heart disease, cancer, and stroke; to include preventive measures, the current recommended guidelines for early detection, and available treatments.

Disparities in Clinical Research: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to support efforts to create awareness of the need for medical research that applies equally to all population groups.

Health Education in the Schools

School Health Education: The AMA Alliance supports the inclusion of a health education plan for grades K12 for all schools and encourages its affiliates to take a leading role in public awareness and legislative mandates.

Health Professions Education

Pool of Applicants: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to work with education associations, school boards, PTAs, private schools, and preschools to encourage the development of mathematics and science skills of young people.

Hearing Loss

Noise Induced Hearing Loss: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to educate the public about the dangers of noise-induced hearing loss; and to encourage the Consumer Products Safety Commission to study the impact of noisy toys and devices using earphones or ear buds, such as handheld electronic games, tablets, music and media players, and cellular phones, on hearing loss.

Health Care

Accessibility of Health Care: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to support or promote, individually or in coalition with other health-concerned organizations, the provision of health care for the homeless, uninsured or underinsured.

Immunization

Childhood, Adolescent, and Adult Immunizations: The AMA Alliance supports affordable and accessible immunization for the good health of all Americans and initiatives that alert the public to the important health benefits of immunizations.

Inhalant Safety

Inhalant Use/Abuse: The AMA Alliance encourages state and county Alliances to support and promote programs that educate the public, especially teachers, parents, pre-adolescents, and young teens about the dangers of inhalant use/abuse of any type.

Lead Poisoning

Screening: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to urge state and local health departments to assess local data on lead risks and develop lead screening recommendations for health care providers, focusing on preschool children; and to actively participate in programs to increase public awareness of the health hazards of lead poisoning, particularly in children.

Literacy

Health Literacy: The AMA Alliance recognizes that limited patient literacy is a barrier to effective medical diagnosis and treatment; encourages the development of literacy appropriate, culturally diverse health-related patient education materials for distribution in the outpatient and inpatient setting. The AMA Alliance works with the AMA, AMA Foundation, and other relevant medical and non-medical organizations to make the health care community aware that approximately half of the adult population has limited literacy and difficulty understanding both oral and written health care information; and encourages its state and county Alliances to develop and support programs aimed at the general public to create awareness of the issues surrounding low health literacy.

Promotion Programs: The AMA Alliance encourages state and county Alliances to support literacy programs, including advocating literacy promotion, as a part of care for pediatric patients. The AMA Alliance encourages state and county Alliances to collaborate with available resources and participate in reading programs on a local level.

Marrow Donation

Awareness: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to raise public awareness of the need for volunteer marrow donors; to actively promote the work of the National Marrow Donor Program and Donor Registry through educational programs; and to work with community organizations, blood donor programs, health care facilities, and corporate sponsors to promote and facilitate the recruitment of volunteer marrow donors.

Media

Media Rating Systems: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to urge the public to monitor the current media rating systems and to make the entertainment industry aware when the rating systems do not provide consumers with precise information about violent and sexual content of motion pictures, broadcast, cable and satellite television, and other forms of video and audio entertainment; to urge the entertainment industry to develop a uniform rating system that is easy for consumers to understand and use; to urge retailers to abide by a precise and useful media rating system; and to work with their state and county medical societies to monitor ratings and program content and educate the public about them.

Media Violence: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to educate parents about taking an active role in curbing the amount of violence their children are exposed to and about the repercussions of allowing children to view violence in the media. (House of Delegates, 2003. Retained as amended 2008, 2013.)

Music Violence: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to develop and support programs to educate youth, parents, and others as to the harmful effects of all music that contains gratuitous violence and/or sexually explicit material. This includes promoting and supporting efforts by radio and television stations to reject such material as well as encouraging the recording industry to develop a rating system to provide all consumers with information.

Youth Safety on the Internet: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to educate parents, guardians, and youth about the risks associated with on-line internet services and social media and about the importance of parental supervision, personal safety, and common sense.

Medical Family Support

Promotion: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to promote the wellbeing of physicians, their spouses and families through education programs directed to marital and family stability, stress management, parenting, and other medical family concerns; and support programs directed to helping the families of physicians cope with stress due to impairment, litigation, death, illness, or other problems.

Organ Donation

Promotion: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to raise public awareness of the need for organ donation.

Osteoporosis

Prevention: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to educate the public about preventing osteoporosis, including the importance of a healthy lifestyle following recommended national guidelines for treatment.

Parenting

Programs: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to support community parenting programs that provide parents and potential parents with support, education, training, and information in child rearing.

Sudden Infant Death Syndrome: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to support education of the public about recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics to reduce the likelihood of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Physical Education and Fitness Training

Promotion: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to endorse programs and activities that promote physical fitness in the school and non-school environments, and to urge their school districts to require daily physical education/activities that lead to healthier lifestyles when children reach adulthood.

Poison Prevention

Education: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to actively support poison prevention educational programs directed to parents and adults who are responsible for children. These programs shall be undertaken with the approval and aid of a poison center.

Public Health and Safety Awareness

Obesity: The AMA Alliance recognizes obesity as a major public health problem; encourages state and county Alliances to support education about the importance of eating a balanced diet and the benefits of physical activity for the purpose of maintaining reasonable weight levels and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Electronic Devices/Social Media: The AMA Alliance encourages state and county Alliances to promote awareness among parents and youths of the need to limit television, video game devices, cell phones and computer usage and to engage in more physical activity.

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs): The AMA Alliance recognizes the need for placement of (portable) automated external defibrillators in schools, public buildings and facilities. The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to urge its members and the general public to find ways to improve access to automated external defibrillators.

Unattended Children in Motor Vehicles: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to educate the public on the dangers of leaving children unattended in vehicles.

Radon Testing

Promotion: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to actively support programs that promote radon testing, both in the air and water, in all homes, following the latest specifications recommended by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Safety

Mobile Phone Usage in Motor Vehicles: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to promote legislation to address mobile phone usage, including texting, while driving a motor vehicle.

Playground: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to promote education programs to increase public awareness about safety equipment and surfacing at new and existing playgrounds in an effort to produce a safer environment for children and prevent playground injuries or deaths.

Protective Gear: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to support educational and legislative programs that promote the use of approved safety helmets and protective gear for sports and recreational activities that have a high risk of head and/or bodily injury.

Scalding:

The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to promote awareness and education for burn prevention in the home, especially for elders and children.

Safe Streets: The AMA Alliance encourages and supports the establishment by state and county Alliances of programs to promote and ensure safety in the streets, including education programs to teach safe procedures and self defense, prevention programs directed to creating a safe community, and support programs to aid victims of crimes.

Tattoo and Body Piercing Safety: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances across the nation to educate the public on the dangers and complications of unsanitary tattoos and body piercing.

School Bus Restraints

School Bus Lap and Shoulder Restraints: The AMA Alliance encourages state and county Alliances to support legislation requiring the installation and use of three point restraints(lap/shoulder belts) on all public and private school buses.

Tobacco

Billboard Advertisements, Smokeless Tobacco: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to seek legislation in their respective states that will ban billboard advertisements of smokeless tobacco or require that health warnings be effectively displayed on smokeless tobacco billboard advertisements.

Education and Tobacco Use: The AMA Alliance, in its efforts to promote a "tobacco free society," encourages its state and county Alliances to support and promote programs that educate the public, especially preschool children, adolescents, and women, about the

dangers and disadvantages of tobacco, including use of cigars, smokeless tobacco products, e-cigarettes and the dangers of second hand smoke.

Entertainment Industry Portrayal: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to urge the public to contact the entertainment industry to remove smoking and tobacco use in TV and movies rated G, PG, AND PG13, and stop the portrayal of tobacco products as glamorous and sophisticated in all entertainment.

Marketing, Selling and Distributing to Youth: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to support and promote legislation prohibiting and/or limiting the marketing of tobacco products to minors, and include provisions prohibiting the sale or distribution of free tobacco product samples, coupons or other materials.

Smoke-free Theme Parks: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to urge the owners of family-oriented theme parks to make their parks smoke-free for the greater health of all guests.

Stress

Prevention: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to sponsor seminars on stress in the early, middle, and later years of life, and to recognize its contribution to many diseases.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): The AMA Alliance supports efforts to raise awareness of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and the stresses involved with military personnel and their families, and encourages state and county Alliances to promote, through education, PTSD awareness.

Ultraviolet Radiation

Education/Legislation: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to support campaigns to educate the general public on the proper use of sunscreen and the hazards of ultraviolet radiation and tanning parlors; and to support legislation regulating tanning booths to protect patients and the general public from improper and dangerous exposure to ultraviolet radiation.

Violence

Advocacy Against Family Violence: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to lend their advocacy efforts to local projects in partnership with the Alliance SAVE program (Stop America's Violence Everywhere) and to observe SAVE DAY (second Wednesday of each October).

Human Trafficking: The AMA Alliance encourages state and county alliances to raise

awareness of human trafficking through educational presentations to targeted groups most likely to encounter victims; to assist in directing those groups and victims to available resources; and to support policies that assist the victims and punish perpetrators.

Protecting Vulnerable Youth: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to raise public awareness and utilize educational tools that relate to the problem of adolescents keeping information confidential regarding threats of potentially dangerous, self-destructive or violent behavior.

Support of Abuse and Assault Victims: The AMA Alliance encourages its state and county Alliances to support the need for comprehensive care for victims of sexual abuse and assault, including medical and forensic exams by appropriately trained and supervised health professionals, and to work with experts and organizations in the field to increase awareness of programs and services for victims of sexual abuse and assault.

Youth: The AMA Alliance advocates programs to educate children and adolescents about the incidence and causes of violence and to teach conflict resolution skills and alternatives to violent behavior; and encourages its state and county Medical Alliances to support and develop such programs.

Amendments

Proposed amendments may be submitted to the bylaws committee by state alliances, county alliances, members, the AMA Alliance Board of Directors, and AMA Alliance committees. The chair of the bylaws committee shall receive such proposed amendments no less than 90 days prior to the annual meeting. The Health Policy of the AMA Alliance shall be amended by a majority vote of those present and voting at any properly constituted Annual Meeting, provided the membership has been given notice of proposed amendments at least 30 days prior to the date of said meeting.