

Actions of the 2024 House of Delegates

Bylaw Amendment 01-24

HOD Action: **Adopted**

Title: "Eligibility for TMA Officers and a Committee Chair"

Resolution No. 01-24

HOD Action: **Referred to the Board for Report**

Title: "Multi-Dose Vials"

Author: Charles Leonard, MD, Lakeway Medical Society

Resolution No. 02-24

HOD Action: **Referred to the Board for Study & Report**

Title: "Employers of Hospital-Based Physicians"

Author: Samantha McLerran, MD, Upper Cumberland Medical Society

Resolution No. 03-24

HOD Action: **Not Adopted**

Title: "Coordination to Reduce Burden of Prior Authorization"

Author: Michelle Cochran, MD, DLFAPA, Tennessee Psychiatric Association

Resolution No. 04-24

HOD Action: **Adopted**

Title: "Establishing a Senior Physicians Section"

Author: Darinka Mileusnic, MD, Knoxville Academy of Medicine

Resolution No. 05-24

HOD Action: **Adopted as Amended**

Title: "Providing Dialysis Through the Emergency Tennessee Medicaid Program"

Author: Parul Goyal, MD, Nashville Academy of Medicine

Resolution No. 06-24

HOD Action: **Adopted as Amended**

Title: "Prohibiting Use of Snap Benefits to Purchase Sugar-Sweetened Beverages"

Author: Nita Shumaker, MD, Ex-Officio

Resolution No. 07-24

HOD Action: **Adopted**

Title: "In Vitro Fertilization for Building Families"

Author: Elise Boos, MD; Lara Harvey, MD, Tennessee Chapter, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; Heather Rupe, DO, Williamson County Medical Society

Resolution No. 08-24

HOD Action: **Adopted as Amended**

Title: "Maintaining Maternal Health in the Setting of Lethal Fetal Conditions"

Author: Elise Boos, MD; Lara Harvey, MD, Tennessee Chapter, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Resolution No. 09-24

HOD Action: **Adopted as Amended**

Title: "Protecting Patient-Physician Communication"

Author: Amy Gordon Bono, MD, Nashville Academy of Medicine; Laura Andreson, DO, Ex-Officio; Nicole Schlechter, MD, Ex-Officio

Resolution No. 10-24

HOD Action: **Adopted as Amended**

Title: "Protections for Physicians Providing Reproductive Healthcare"

Author: Amy Gordon Bono, MD, Nashville Academy of Medicine; Laura Andreson, DO, Ex-Officio; Nicole Schlechter, MD, Ex-Officio

Resolution No. 11-24

HOD Action: **Adopted as Amended**

Title: "Preserving Patients' Lives and Fertility"

Author: Amy Gordon Bono, MD, Nashville Academy of Medicine; Nicole Schlechter, MD, Ex-Officio

Resolution No. 12-24

HOD Action: **Adopted as Amended**

Title: "Recognizing Buprenorphine's Role in Chronic Pain Management"

Author: Neha Aggarwal, Nashville Academy of Medicine

Resolution No. 13-24

HOD Action: **Adopted**

Title: "Encouraging Physicians to Explore Group Care Visits"

Author: Swathi Ganesh, Memphis Medical Society

Resolution No. 14-24

HOD Action: **Adopted**

Title: "Supporting Children's Mental Health Through Healthy Device Usage"

Author: Jason Yaun, MD, Tennessee Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics; Victoria Alexander, MD, Memphis Medical Society

Resolution No. 15-24

HOD Action: **Adopted**

Title: "Affirming and Supporting the Mature Minor Doctrine"

Author: Jason Yaun, MD, Tennessee Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics; Amy Gordon Bono, MD Nashville Academy of Medicine; Victoria Alexander, MD, Memphis Medical Society

Resolution No. 16-24

HOD Action: **Referred to the Board for Study & Action**

Title: "Preparing to Leverage the Oncoming Artificial Intelligence Economy"

Author: Swathi Ganesh, Memphis Medical Society

Resolution No. 17-24

HOD Action: **Adopted**

Title: "Media Campaign for Physician-Led Team Model [Reaffirmation of Resolution No. 06-17]"

Author: Bob Vegors, MD, Tennessee Chapter, American College of Physicians

Resolution No. 18-24

HOD Action: **Adopted**

Title: "Hospital Overcrowding" [Reaffirmation of Resolution No. 18-17]

Author: Chris Young, MD, Ex-Officio

Resolution No. 19-24

HOD Action: **Adopted**

Title: "Protecting the Professionalism of Hospital Employed Physicians [Reaffirmation of Resolution No. 28-17]"

Author: Chris Young, MD, Ex-Officio

ADOPTED APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Bylaw Amendment No. 01-24

INTRODUCED BY: M. KEVIN SMITH, MD, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

SUBJECT: ELIGIBILITY FOR TMA OFFICERS AND A COMMITTEE CHAIR

RESOLVED, That TMA Bylaw Chapter IV, Section A.3 be amended by insertion to read as follows:

Sec. 3. The president-elect, the speaker of the House of Delegates, and the vice-speaker of the House of Delegates shall be elected annually for one year. The speaker and the vice-speaker of the House shall hold office for not more than three consecutive years. The president-elect shall assume office as president at the expiration of the term of the president. To be eligible for election for president-elect, one must have been an active dues-paying member of the TMA five previous years prior to election and possess a current license to practice medicine in Tennessee.

RESOLVED, That TMA Bylaw Chapter IV, Section A.6 be amended by insertion and deletion to read as follows:

Sec. 6. Only active dues-paying a members in good standing for the five years immediately preceding the election and who possesses a current license to practice medicine in Tennessee shall be eligible for election as president-elect. Only active dues-paying members in good standing for three ~~two~~ previous years prior to election and who possess a current license to practice medicine in Tennessee shall be eligible for election to the Board of Trustees. To be eligible to be speaker or vice-speaker of the House of Delegates, one must have been an active dues-paying member of TMA and ~~one must~~ have attended meetings of the House of Delegates as a delegate or alternate delegate for a minimum of five years-, and possess a current license to practice medicine in Tennessee.

RESOLVED, That TMA Bylaw Chapter V, Section 2 be amended by insertion and deletion to read as follows:

Bylaw Amendment No. 01-24

-2-

Sec. 2. With the exception of the medical student and resident and fellow board members, the prerequisites in order for a member to qualify for a Board position are that he/she have at least three consecutive years of active dues-paying membership in TMA immediately preceding nomination; have a current license to practice medicine in Tennessee; and ~~have~~ either served as an officer or committee member in a component medical society or at the TMA level or be a graduate of TMA's leadership development program.

RESOLVED, That TMA Bylaw Chapter V, Section 7 be amended by insertion as follows:

Sec. 7. The Board of Trustees and any committee, subcommittee, task force or work group organized by the Board of Trustees shall hold such meetings, as often and in such manner as it deems necessary, whether by teleconference, electronic means or otherwise, at the call of the chair, and the Board shall also meet on the last day of the annual meeting. To be eligible to be appointed as chair of a Board committee, one must be an active dues-paying member of TMA for three years immediately prior to appointment and possess a current license to practice medicine in Tennessee. The Board of Trustees shall make expenditures of the funds of the Association dependent upon the availability of such funds as determined by the Board of Trustees and as ordered by the House of Delegates. The Board of Trustees, through the secretary-treasurer, shall render at the annual meeting a full and detailed accounting of all receipts and disbursements.

RESOLVED, That it be the policy of TMA in implementing the amendments herein to this Bylaw Amendment 01-24 as follows:

- (1) As for any member serving in a leadership position or as committee chair who begins his/her term the day after the adjournment of this 2024 House of Delegates, who otherwise would be in violation of any of these TMA bylaws amendments, such member may serve in their position until their proscribed term expires.
- (2) As for the President-Elect and President who begin their terms of office the day after the adjournment of this 2024 House of Delegates, they may advance through full terms as President and Immediate Past President without being in violation of the amendment to Bylaw Chapter IV, Section A.3 even if they would otherwise be in violation of any of these TMA bylaws amendments.

REFERRED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR REPORT APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 01-24

INTRODUCED BY: CHARLES LEONARD, MD
LAKEWAY MEDICAL SOCIETY

SUBJECT: MULTI-DOSE VIALS

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association adopt the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines for the use of multi-dose vials for multiple patients in existence at the time physicians prescribe or administer multi-dose vials for their patients; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Tennessee Medical Association shall distribute this multi-dose vial policy to the Tennessee Pharmacists Association and the Tennessee Board of Pharmacy.

Sunset: 2031

REFERRED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR REPORT APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 02-24

INTRODUCED BY: SAMANTHA MCLERRAN, MD
UPPER CUMBERLAND MEDICAL SOCIETY

SUBJECT: EMPLOYERS OF HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association advocate for amending Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-204 to allow hospitals to employ appropriately trained and licensed physicians to staff its inpatient and outpatient departments. Language excluding anesthesiologists, emergency department physicians, pathologists, and radiologists should be removed.

Sunset: 2031

NOT ADOPTED APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 03-24

INTRODUCED BY: MICHELLE COCHRAN, MD, DLFAPA
TENNESSEE PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

SUBJECT: COORDINATION TO REDUCE BURDEN OF PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

RESOLVED, That Tennessee Medical Association work with the American Medical Association and other medical societies to advance policy that would allow physicians to bill for time used to obtain prior authorization for medication and treatment of patients by considering a Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code which would be accepted by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and other insurance companies; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Tennessee Medical Association work with the American Medical Association to educate physicians on a process of using existing evaluation and management coding by including a short evaluation during a scheduled brief telehealth examination which would involve the patient in the prior authorization process while also reviewing the patient's medical history, past medication history, current treatment plan, all medically necessary options, risks, and benefits to the patient, patient desires, and a medical decision to select the best treatment option for the patient; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association and the American Medical Association develop educational tools to teach physicians the options to bill for the time used to obtain prior authorization for medication and treatment of patients.

Sunset: 2031

ADOPTED APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 04-24

INTRODUCED BY: DARINKA MILEUSNIC, MD
KNOXVILLE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHING A SENIOR PHYSICIANS SECTION

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association (TMA) establish a unique Senior Physicians Section to support their needs and to encourage their ongoing involvement in the TMA and its leadership.

Sunset: 2031

ADOPTED AS AMENDED APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 05-24

INTRODUCED BY: PARUL GOYAL, MD, DELEGATE
NASHVILLE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

SUBJECT: PROVIDING DIALYSIS THROUGH THE EMERGENCY TENNESSEE MEDICAID
PROGRAM

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association advocate for the State Medicaid Director to enact a subregulatory change that would allow for dialysis of uninsured persons to be provided for on a scheduled basis under the Emergency Tennessee Medicaid program.

Sunset: 2031

ADOPTED AS AMENDED APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 06-24

INTRODUCED BY: NITA SHUMAKER, MD, EX-OFFICIO DELEGATE

SUBJECT: PROHIBITING USE OF SNAP BENEFITS TO PURCHASE SUGAR-SWEETENED BEVERAGES

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association support legislation prohibiting the use of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for purchasing sugar-sweetened beverages and seek a waiver from the USDA.

Sunset: 2031

ADOPTED APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 07-24

INTRODUCED BY: ELISE BOOS, MD, DELEGATE
LARA HARVEY, MD, DELEGATE
TENNESSEE CHAPTER, AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND
GYNECOLOGISTS
HEATHER RUPE, DO, DELEGATE
WILLIAMSON COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

SUBJECT: IN VITRO FERTILIZATION FOR BUILDING FAMILIES

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association advocates for legal protection for in vitro fertilization and all other advanced reproductive options for infertile patients, including the performance of preimplantation genetic diagnosis and all options relating to embryo storage, use, and destruction.

Sunset: 2031

ADOPTED AS AMENDED APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 08-24

INTRODUCED BY: ELISE BOOS, MD, DELEGATE
LARA HARVEY, MD, DELEGATE
TENNESSEE CHAPTER, AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND
GYNECOLOGISTS

SUBJECT: MAINTAINING MATERNAL HEALTH IN THE SETTING OF LETHAL FETAL
CONDITIONS

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association affirms denial of abortion care to patients seeking such in the setting of a lethal fetal condition is to subject patients to unnecessary risk of pregnancy and is a violation of our professional and ethical obligation.

Sunset: 2031

ADOPTED AS AMENDED APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 09-24

INTRODUCED BY: AMY GORDON BONO, MD, MPH, DELEGATE
NASHVILLE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE
LAURA ANDRESON, DO, EX-OFFICIO DELEGATE
NICOLE SCHLECHTER, MD, PhD, EX-OFFICIO DELEGATE

SUBJECT: PROTECTING PATIENT-PHYSICIAN COMMUNICATION

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association affirms the need for patients to be informed of therapeutic options available for their medical conditions and advocates that physicians be able to communicate in any format or venue using peer-reviewed, evidence-based information and using good faith medical judgment without criminal or civil penalty.

Sunset: 2031

ADOPTED AS AMENDED APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 10-24

INTRODUCED BY: AMY GORDON BONO, MD, MPH, DELEGATE
NASHVILLE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE
LAURA ANDRESON, DO, EX-OFFICIO DELEGATE
NICOLE SCHLECHTER, MD, PhD, EX-OFFICIO DELEGATE

SUBJECT: PROTECTIONS FOR PHYSICIANS PROVIDING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association opposes efforts to enforce criminal and civil penalties or other retaliatory efforts against patients and physicians while providing reproductive healthcare.

Sunset: 2031

ADOPTED AS AMENDED APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 11-24

INTRODUCED BY: AMY GORDON BONO, MD, MPH, DELEGATE
NASHVILLE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE
NICOLE SCHLECHTER, MD, PhD, EX-OFFICIO DELEGATE

SUBJECT: PRESERVING PATIENTS' LIVES AND FERTILITY

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association affirms the value and need for access to evidence-based pregnancy care in accordance with accepted standard of care and professional practice guidelines and within the scope of a physician's training and professional judgment.

Sunset: 2031

ADOPTED AS AMENDED APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 12-24

INTRODUCED BY: NEHA AGGARWAL, STUDENT DELEGATE
NASHVILLE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

SUBJECT: RECOGNIZING BUPRENORPHINE'S ROLE IN CHRONIC PAIN MANAGEMENT

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association recognize buprenorphine/naloxone as a safer and effective alternative to traditional opioids for the management of chronic pain.

Sunset: 2031

ADOPTED APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 13-24

INTRODUCED BY: SWATHI GANESH, STUDENT DELEGATE
MEMPHIS MEDICAL SOCIETY

SUBJECT: ENCOURAGING PHYSICIANS TO EXPLORE GROUP CARE VISITS

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association explore the value and implementation of group care visits for various healthcare conditions in order to improve patient outcomes while increasing healthcare access.

Sunset: 2031

ADOPTED APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 14-24

INTRODUCED BY: JASON YAUN, MD, DELEGATE
TENNESSEE CHAPTER, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS
VICTORIA ALEXANDER, MD, DELEGATE
MEMPHIS MEDICAL SOCIETY

SUBJECT: SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH HEALTHY DEVICE
USAGE

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association support children's mental health and wellbeing by keeping them safe online and supporting their healthy use of modern digital devices and social media through working to promote effective measures to address digital challenges including but not limited to promoting limited screen time, age restrictions on harmful content, protections around data collection, manipulative design practices, and algorithmic recommendations.

Sunset: 2031

ADOPTED APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 15-24

INTRODUCED BY: JASON YAUN, MD, DELEGATE
TENNESSEE CHAPTER, AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS
AMY GORDON BONO, MD, MPH, DELEGATE
NASHVILLE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE
VICTORIA ALEXANDER, MD, DELEGATE
MEMPHIS MEDICAL SOCIETY

SUBJECT: AFFIRMING AND SUPPORTING THE MATURE MINOR DOCTRINE

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association supports the continued viability of the Mature Minor Doctrine and the ability of physicians to determine the decision-making capacity of emancipated or competent mature minors, age 14 or older, to consent to their healthcare provider.

Sunset: 2031

REFERRED TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR STUDY AND ACTION APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 16-24

INTRODUCED BY: SWATHI GANESH, STUDENT DELEGATE
MEMPHIS MEDICAL SOCIETY

SUBJECT: PREPARING TO LEVERAGE THE ONCOMING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
ECONOMY

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association support the pursuit of research and educational opportunities to prepare Tennessee healthcare providers for an artificial intelligence-integrated healthcare ecosystem; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Medical Association advocate for physician autonomy in deciding how artificial intelligence is integrated into medical practice.

Sunset: 2031

ADOPTED APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 17-24

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

SUBJECT: MEDIA CAMPAIGN FOR PHYSICIAN-LED TEAM MODEL
(Reaffirmation of Resolution No. 6-17)

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: 2031

ADOPTED APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 18-24

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

SUBJECT: HOSPITAL OVERCROWDING
(Reaffirmation of Resolution No. 18-17)

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: 2031

ADOPTED APRIL 6, 2024

TENNESSEE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution No. 19-24

INTRODUCED BY: CHRIS YOUNG, MD, EX-OFFICIO

SUBJECT: PROTECTING THE PROFESSIONALISM OF HOSPITAL EMPLOYED PHYSICIANS
(Reaffirmation of Resolution No. 28-17)

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: 2031