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**Pennsylvania Medical Society
House of Delegates
Report**

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Reference Committee B

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Presented by: Daniel B. Kimball, Jr., MD, MACP, Chair

October 2017

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CONSENT CALENDAR

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Mr. Speaker, your reference committee recommends the following consent calendar:

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Recommended for Adoption

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1. Report 3 Board of Trustees, Resolution 16-201: Seeking Support of Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition
 2. Report 9, Board of Trustees, Resolution 15-204: Parity for International Medical Graduates With US Medical Graduates in Years of Graduate Medical Education Requirements for Licensure
 3. Resolution 17-202: Promote Teen Health Week
 4. Resolution 17-205: Support for VA Health Services for Women Veterans

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Recommended for Adoption as Amended or Substituted

5. Resolution 17-201: Stop The Bleed Public Educational Campaign
6. Resolution 17-203: Promoting Medication-Assisted Treatment for Substance Abuse Disorders
7. Resolution 17-206: Baby Boxes as a Safe Sleeping Space for Infants in Pennsylvania

Recommended for Referral to the Board for Study

8. Resolution 17-204: Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance
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1. REPORT 3, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, RESOLUTION 16-201: SEEKING SUPPORT OF PENNSYLVANIA IMMUNIZATION COALITION

RECOMMENDATION:

Mr. Speaker, your reference committee recommends that the recommendation in Report 3 of the Board of Trustees be adopted and the remainder of the report be filed.

Resolution 16-201, introduced at the 2016 Annual Meeting and referred to the Board of Trustees for study, asked the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) to call upon the State of Pennsylvania to provide \$200,000 in annual funding for the administration and activities of the Pennsylvania Immunization Coalition to increase awareness and compliance with recommended immunization practices to improve the health of all Pennsylvanians.

Your reference committee is very appreciative of the Board's work on this issue.

2. REPORT 9, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, RESOLUTION 15-204: PARITY FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL GRADUATES WITH US MEDICAL GRADUATES IN YEARS OF GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE

1 RECOMMENDATION:
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3 Mr. Speaker, your reference committee recommends that the
4 recommendation in Report 9 of the Board of Trustees be adopted and the
5 remainder of the report be filed.
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7 Resolution 15-204, introduced at the 2015 Annual Meeting and referred to the Board of Trustees to report
8 back progress in two years, requested that PAMED aggressively pursue, including by legislative means,
9 parity in the number of years of Graduate Medical Education training requirement for International
10 Medical Graduates and US Medical Graduates for licensure, and report back the progress in two years.

11 Your reference committee is very appreciative of the attention to this report.
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14 3. RESOLUTION 17-202: PROMOTE TEEN HEALTH WEEK
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16 RECOMMENDATION:
17

18 Mr. Speaker, your reference committee recommends that Resolution 17-
19 202 be adopted as written.
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21 Resolution 17-202 requests that PAMED promote Teen Health Week by encouraging county and
22 specialty associations across the state to join with their local schools to adopt, promote, and participate in
23 the week-long activities.
24

25 This resolution reaffirms PAMED Policy 60.922 directing it to actively promote Teen Health Week and
26 encourage county and specialty associations across the state to join with their local schools to adopt,
27 promote, and participate in Teen Health Week.
28

29 4. RESOLUTION 17-205: SUPPORT FOR VA HEALTH SERVICES FOR WOMEN VETERANS
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31 RECOMMENDATION:
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33 Mr. Speaker, your reference committee recommends that Resolution 17-
34 205 be adopted as written.
35

36 Resolution 17-205 requests that PAMED recognize the disparity in access to care for women veterans as
37 well as encouraging research to address the needs of this population with the focus on improving
38 outcomes and that the PAMED delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) present this
39 resolution at the upcoming interim meeting of the AMA (I-2017) for national adoption.
40

41 Your reference committee recognizes the disparity of access to care for women veterans and
42 acknowledges the need for research to address this population's health care needs.
43

44 5. RESOLUTION 17-201: STOP THE BLEED PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN
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46 RECOMMENDATION A:
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48 Mr. Speaker, your reference committee recommends that Resolution 17-
49 201 be amended as follows:
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51 RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Medical Society support the
52 American College of Surgeons' national public educational campaign
53 entitled "Stop the Bleed" and encourage its component county and

1 specialty associations and all physicians within the Commonwealth of
 2 Pennsylvania to promote this education for the health of all patients.

3
 4 Your reference committee supports this resolution, but believes the amendment is necessary to broaden
 5 the reach of the initiative.

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 7 RECOMMENDATION B:

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 9 Mr. Speaker, your reference committee recommends that Resolution 17-
 10 201 be adopted as amended.

11
 12 6. RESOLUTION 17-203: PROMOTING MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT FOR
 13 SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDERS

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 15 RECOMMENDATION A:

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 17 Mr. Speaker, your reference committee recommends that Resolution 17-
 18 203 be amended as follows:

19
 20 RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Medical Society coordinate public
 21 and professional education campaigns and programs to promote more
 22 widespread use of the safe and effective medication-assisted treatments
 23 in coordination with counseling and evidence-based therapies which are
 24 available; and be it further

25
 26 RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Medical Society ~~coordinate and~~
 27 promote training programs for those Pennsylvania physicians ~~to become~~
 28 interested in becoming medication-assisted treatment providers.

29
 30 Resolution 17-203 requests that PAMED coordinate public and professional education campaigns and
 31 programs to promote more widespread use of the safe and effective medication-assisted treatments in
 32 coordination with counseling and evidence-based therapies which are available. It also requests that
 33 PAMED coordinate and promote training programs for Pennsylvania physicians to become medication-
 34 assisted treatment (MAT) providers.

35
 36 Your reference committee feels that the first resolved is a reaffirmation of PAMED Policy 95.996 which
 37 directs it to provide public and expert support for any community effort to expand safe and appropriately
 38 supervised access to comprehensive therapy for opiate addiction including methadone and buprenorphine.
 39 It also directs PAMED to encourage its members to function as advocates for and providers of therapies
 40 to treat opiate addiction within federal and state guidelines.

41
 42 Your reference committee heard testimony that there are existing training programs for those physicians
 43 seeking to become MAT providers and, therefore, PAMED resources should not be used to duplicate
 44 existing training programs. Rather, PAMED should promote applicable training programs in existence.

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 46 RECOMMENDATION B:

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 48 Mr. Speaker, your reference committee recommends that Resolution 17-
 49 203 be adopted as amended.

50
 51 7. RESOLUTION 17-206: BABY BOXES AS A SAFE SLEEPING SPACE FOR INFANTS IN
 52 PENNSYLVANIA

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1 RECOMMENDATION A:
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3 Mr. Speaker, your reference committee recommends that Resolution 17-
4 206 be amended as follows:

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6 RESOLVED, that PAMED encourage the research of ~~baby box safe~~
7 sleeping environments which could include the study of the safety,
8 efficacy, and methods of implementation of boxes for babies to sleep in
9 as a potential initiative to decrease the incidence of sudden unexpected
10 infant death in Pennsylvania. and, be it further

11
12 ~~*Alternate --- RESOLVED, that PAMED advocate for the use of baby*~~
13 ~~*boxes in settings that provide obstetrical services to decrease the*~~
14 ~~*incidence of Sudden Unexpected Death in Pennsylvania; and, be it*~~
15 ~~*further*~~

16
17 ~~*Alternate --- RESOLVED, that PAMED collaborate with health*~~
18 ~~*insurance companies to include baby boxes as a covered health benefit;*~~
19 ~~*and, be it further*~~

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21 ~~RESOLVED, that PAMED, based on favorable research, support the~~
22 ~~implantation of a statewide initiative utilizing baby boxes and education~~
23 ~~on safe sleeping conditions for infants; and, be it further~~

24
25 ~~*Alternate --- RESOLVED, that with the adoption of baby boxes that*~~
26 ~~*the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania study the effectiveness of this*~~
27 ~~*initiative on the incidence of Sudden Unexpected Death in*~~
28 ~~*Pennsylvania; and, be it further*~~

29
30 ~~RESOLVED, that the Pennsylvania Delegation to the American Medical~~
31 ~~Association present this resolution to the upcoming interim meeting of~~
32 ~~the AMA (I-2017) for national adoption.~~

33
34 Resolution 17-206 requests that PAMED encourage the research of baby box safety, efficacy, and
35 methods of implementation as a potential initiative to decrease the incidence of sudden unexpected infant
36 death in Pennsylvania. Also, it requests that PAMED, based on favorable research, support the
37 implementation of a statewide initiative utilizing baby boxes and education on safe sleeping conditions
38 for infants. Finally, it requests PAMED's delegation to the AMA present this resolution at the upcoming
39 I-2017 meeting for national adoption.

40
41 Your reference committee heard testimony from the author clarifying the alternate resolve clauses were
42 inadvertently included and should be removed.

43
44 Your reference committee suggests amending the first resolved to adhere to existing PAMED Policy on
45 Principles to Guide Corporate Relationships which states PAMED does not endorse health or medical
46 products or services which are marketed to consumers and which PAMED does not design, produce, or
47 control. The term "Baby Box" as written in the original resolution may be construed as supporting The
48 Baby Box Company that sells baby boxes commercially.

49
50 Your reference committee heard testimony that the American Academy of Pediatrics Task Force on SIDS
51 does not believe that there is enough evidence yet to say anything regarding the potential benefits or
52 dangers about the use of baby boxes. Additional testimony was heard relative to inconclusive data and
53 limited research on the impact of reducing sudden infant death. It is not in the best interest of PAMED to
54 commit to the implementation of a statewide initiative without supporting data.

1 Your reference committee learned that the Medical Student Section of the AMA has submitted a
2 resolution for consideration at the I-2017 meeting asking for support of the baby box initiative.

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4 RECOMMENDATION B:

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6 Mr. Speaker, your reference committee recommends that Resolution 17-
7 206 be adopted as amended.

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9 8. RESOLUTION 17-204: EQUAL ACCESS TO ABORTION COVERAGE IN HEALTH
10 INSURANCE

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12 RECOMMENDATION:

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14 Mr. Speaker, your reference committee recommends that Resolution 17-
15 204 be referred to the Board of Trustees for study.

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17 Resolution 17-204 requests that PAMED call upon the General Assembly to include abortion coverage
18 within PA public insurance programs while also lifting the ban on such coverage within the private plans
19 sold through the PA Fair Health Exchange. It also requests that PAMED urge Governor Wolf to support
20 such measures, insuring and protecting women's rights to unhindered access to safe and comprehensive
21 care.

22
23 Your reference committee heard substantial testimony that the focus of this resolution is to address access
24 to care for women covered by public insurance programs and not to take a position on abortion. We also
25 heard testimony expressing the concern that support of this resolution could be perceived to be in conflict
26 with PAMED Policy 5.998 stating that it has a policy of no position on abortion.

27
28 Your reference committee acknowledges there is an inequity in access to women's reproductive health
29 care services. Additionally, your reference committee believes that access to women's reproductive health
30 care services may be a broader issue than is presented within this resolution and may not only be limited
31 to just those populations covered through public insurance programs. Therefore, additional exploration of
32 the inequity and the broader impact is necessary.
33

Respectfully submitted,

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