

THE ARIZONA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, INC
Report of the Reference Committee Report on Resolutions
Presented by Ricardo Correa, MD Chair

Voting members of the Arizona Medical Association, the ArMA Reference Committee, offer the following report and recommendations on the ten (10) proposals submitted in the first quarter of 2026.

ArMA's Reference Committee considered all comments submitted online and at the Annual Meeting on May 2, 2026.

Resolution: Addressing Food Insecurity Among Medical Trainees in Arizona

The Committee recommends that this policy be adopted as amended. All online comments submitted by members supported amending this policy, and the authors agreed to the updated language.

Resolved, that ArMA **ENCOURAGE** advocates for institution-level screening and support systems to identify and assist food-insecure medical trainees in Arizona (e.g., medical student and resident food pantries, “meal ticket” programs, access to SNAP or emergency grants); and be it further

Resolved, that ArMA supports statewide efforts to collect and stratify data on food insecurity among Arizona medical trainees to inform targeted policies and interventions that promote equity, well-being, and retention in the physician workforce.

Resolution: Alignment of Drug Paraphernalia Laws with Harm Reduction Policy in Arizona

The Committee recommends that this policy be adopted as written. All online comments submitted by members were supportive of this policy.

Resolved, that the Arizona Medical Association support efforts to align drug paraphernalia laws with existing harm reduction policies in order to reduce legal barriers that limit the effectiveness of authorized syringe service programs, and be it further

Resolved, that the Arizona Medical Association advocate for policies that ensure consistent legal protections for individuals participating in authorized harm reduction programs across Arizona, and be it further

Resolved, that the Arizona Medical Association encourage education of physicians and healthcare professionals regarding the public health benefits of harm reduction strategies and the legal framework affecting patient access to these services.

Resolution: Enhancing Patient Protections and Research Integrity in Medical Record Retention

The Committee recommends that this policy be adopted as written. All online comments submitted by members were supportive of this policy.

RESOLVED, That ArMA advocate for state-level policies requiring hospitals and health systems to provide clear, proactive disclosure of their record retention and destruction schedules to patients at the time of service; and be it further

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RESOLVED, That ArMA support legislation or regulatory changes that require healthcare entities to make a good-faith effort to notify patients (or their designated representatives) prior to the permanent destruction of their medical records, offering the patient an opportunity to obtain a digital or physical copy; and be it further

RESOLVED, That ArMA advocate for the protection of clinical data archives, encouraging health systems to utilize long-term digital storage solutions as a standard of care to preserve vital information for future medical research and public health surveillance; and be it further

RESOLVED, That ArMA collaborate with the American Medical Association (AMA) to study the clinical and scientific impact of current record retention laws and develop "Best Practice" guidelines that prioritize patient care continuity and research integrity over administrative data management.

Resolution: *Improving Maternal Health Outcomes and Addressing Rural Maternity Care Access in Arizona*
The Committee recommends that this policy be adopted as written. All online comments submitted by members were supportive of this policy.

Resolved, that ArMA advocates for expanded access to comprehensive prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care throughout Arizona, especially in rural areas, including the use of telehealth-supported consultations; and be it further

Resolved, that ArMA supports the evaluation and adoption of evidence-based programs that improve maternal health outcomes and reduce preventable maternal mortality; and be it further

Resolved, that ArMA supports the use of maternal mortality and morbidity review committees to facilitate ongoing data collection and reporting on maternal morbidity, mortality, and maternity care access disparities in Arizona to guide equitable policy interventions and resource allocation; and be it further

Resolved, that ArMA encourages the recruitment and retention of obstetric providers in rural and underserved areas through student and resident exposure to rural obstetric practice environments, loan repayment programs, enhanced Medicaid reimbursement for maternity services, medical liability support mechanisms, and rural practice incentives; and be it further

Resolved, that ArMA encourages expanded training programs in management of pregnant patients and availability of obstetric resources for family medicine and emergency medicine physicians working in rural areas; and be it further

Resolved, that ArMA supports the utilization of physician-led, integrated care models to enhance the delivery of obstetric services in maternity care deserts.

Resolution: *Motor Vehicle Traffic Safety and Injury Prevention in Arizona*
The comments found the current language too limiting and recommend broadening it to include e-scooters, e-bikes, and bicycles. During the Committee meeting, it was recommended that this be referred to the ArMA Public Health Committee to consider incorporating the members' recommendations into the current resolutions. It was

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determined that it is within the RC's purview to send this directly to the PH Committee before it is put before the membership for a vote.

Resolved, that the Arizona Medical Association support evidence-based traffic safety measures in Arizona, including enforcement of occupant restraint laws, restrictions on handheld device use while driving, and motorcycle helmet requirements, and be it further

Resolved, that ArMA encourage physicians to educate patients and the public about motor vehicle injury prevention, including seat-belt use, avoidance of distracted driving, and motorcycle safety, consistent with existing Arizona Medical Association policy, and be it further

Resolved, that ArMA collaborate with public health agencies, policymakers, and community organizations to educate the public and promote evidence-based motor vehicle injury-prevention strategies.

Resolution: *Physician Collective Negotiation*

The Committee recommends that this policy be adopted as amended. All online comments submitted by members were supportive of this policy as amended.

RESOLVED, that the Arizona Medical Association encourage federal legislation that provides a narrowly tailored antitrust exemption permitting independent physicians to engage in collective negotiation with health plans; and be it further

RESOLVED, that ArMA explore and support state-level frameworks consistent with Parker v. Brown to enable physician collaboration under active state supervision; and be it further

RESOLVED, that ArMA provide education to physicians regarding legally permissible collaborative and contracting models.

Resolution: *Physician Education on Food Is Medicine Interventions*

The Committee recommends that this policy be adopted as written. All online comments submitted by members were supportive of this policy.

Resolved, that the Arizona Medical Association supports physician and medical trainee education on the evidence-based clinical use of Food Is Medicine interventions, including produce prescription programs and medically tailored meals or groceries.

Resolution: *Safe Firearm Storage to Prevent Pediatric Injury and Death*

The Committee recommends that this policy be adopted as written. All online comments submitted by members were supportive of this policy.

Resolved that ArMA:

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1. Supports legislation and policies that require safe storage of firearms, including the use of locking devices or secure storage, particularly in homes where children or adolescents are present.
2. Advocates for laws that hold firearm owners accountable for negligent storage practices that allow unauthorized access by minors.
3. Encourages healthcare professionals to counsel patients and families on safe firearm storage practices as part of routine preventive care and in cases where there are high-risk individuals in the home.
4. Supports public health initiatives that promote the distribution of firearm locking devices and education on safe storage.
5. Calls for continued research funding to evaluate the effectiveness of safe storage laws and interventions in reducing firearm-related injuries and deaths among children.
6. Collaborates with community organizations, schools, and policymakers to promote awareness of the importance of secure firearm storage.

Resolution: *Student Loan Caps*

The Committee recommends that this policy be adopted as amended to remove the word “aggressively” from two of the Resolves. All online comments submitted by members were supportive of this policy as amended.

RESOLVED, that the Arizona Medical Association opposes any state or federal legislation that restricts, caps, or eliminates student loan borrowing capacity specifically for medical education, unless such legislation is accompanied by equivalent, guaranteed alternative funding mechanisms; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) prioritizes the development and support of public-private partnerships, actively convening Arizona's major health systems and medical schools to establish pre-funded, service-linked scholarship and gap-loan trusts; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Arizona Medical Association **aggressively** advocates for the expansion and increased funding of state loan repayment and scholarship programs, particularly those tied to service in rural and underserved areas and high-need specialties; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Arizona Medical Association formally urges all Arizona medical schools—both public and private—to implement immediate tuition freezes and expand internal institutional financial aid to prevent exacerbating the medical student debt crisis caused by federal loan restrictions, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Arizona Medical Association supports exploration of state-level tax credits, deductions, or interest subsidies to reduce the financial burden of medical education debt; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Arizona Medical Association **aggressively** advocates for expansion of graduate medical education (GME) positions in Arizona, recognizing the linkage between training program capacity, workforce retention, and the financial viability of medical education; and be it further

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RESOLVED, that the Arizona Medical Association actively leverages its American Medical Association (AMA) Delegation to ensure the AMA advocates at the federal level for the protection and expansion of medical education financing and repayment programs.

Resolution: *Supporting Patient Education and Regulatory Transparency*

The Committee recommends that this policy be adopted as written. All online comments submitted by members were supportive of this policy.

RESOLVED, that ArMA support legislation to require healthcare providers in all professions who claim "board certification" to provide the same transparent disclosures required under A.R.S. § 32-1401(27)(nn) so patients have the information necessary to evaluate those claims.

This concludes the report of the ArMA Reference Committee. I wish to express my appreciation to Drs. Katherine Glaser, Nadeem Kazi, James Nachbar, Heidi Tavel, and Ms. Kriti Lalwan for their participation and thoughtful deliberations, and Ms. Susan Brown for her administrative support. The Committee would also like to thank the ArMA members who participated in the comment period for these resolutions.