

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 606
(I-16)

Introduced by: Pennsylvania
Subject: Promote Teen Health Week
Referred to: Reference Committee F
(Gary R. Katz, MD, Chair)

- 1 Whereas, The rapid physical and emotional growth of adolescence differs from the needs of
2 children and adults and often includes deleterious, life-affecting choices of interpersonal
3 relationships, diet, exercise, self-harm, substance use, and violence; and
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5 Whereas, Health behaviors resulting in adult morbidity and mortality are initiated in adolescence
6 and occur because teenagers are not exposed to positive activities which nurture better health
7 choices; and
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9 Whereas, There are observances for specific teen health issues (e.g., Teen Dating Violence
10 Prevention Month, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month, and Youth Violence Prevention Week)
11 but none for overall teen health; and
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13 Whereas, AMA policy supports programs that encourage teen health and supports the
14 involvement of medical students, residents, and other physicians in educational efforts to
15 enhance teen health (AMA Policy H-170.972, The Role of Physicians in Improving Adolescent
16 Health); and
17
18 Whereas, Teen Health Week (January 9-13, 2017) has been organized by representatives of
19 the Delaware County (Pennsylvania) Medical Society, the Philadelphia College of Physicians,
20 the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Philadelphia County Medical Society, and
21 has been promoted by the South Eastern Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center; and
22
23 Whereas, The Pennsylvania Medical Society, at its annual House of Delegates meeting on
24 October 23, 2016, adopted the position to actively promote Teen Health Week
25 (January 9-13, 2017), and encourages state, county and specialty medical associations within
26 the Federation of Medicine across the nation to join, promote and participate in Teen Health
27 Week; and
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29 Whereas, A Teen Health Week Toolkit has been developed to assist schools and other groups
30 in promoting active teen involvement in this effort; and
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32 Whereas, The 2017 Teen Health Week, as well as future Teen Health Weeks, includes
33 publicized kick-off events at the Pennsylvania State Capitol with emphasis throughout the week
34 on nutrition and fitness, violence prevention, mental health, sexual health, and substance
35 abuse; and
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37 Whereas, Pennsylvania's Teen Health Week remains the only such statewide observance in the
38 country; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association actively promote Teen Health Week 2017
2 and encourage state medical associations and specialty medical associations across the nation
3 to join the initial efforts as originated in Pennsylvania, and encourage schools and other
4 appropriate organizations to adopt, promote and participate in Teen Health Week (Directive to
5 Take Action); and be it further
6

7 RESOLVED, That our AMA actively advocate, through direct communication with the
8 appropriate agencies and organizations, for the development of an annually recognized Teen
9 Health Week. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 10/26/16

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Role of Physicians in Improving Adolescent Health H-170.972

The AMA supports programs that encourage teen health and supports the involvement of medical students, residents, and other physicians in educational efforts to enhance teen health. Res. 431, A-94 Reaffirmed and Modified: CSA Rep. 6, A-04 Modified: CSAPH Rep. 1, A-14