

Resolution to Oppose Policing within Medical Care and Facilities

WHEREAS the AAFP “believes that medical care decision-making occurs between the physician and the patient. The AAFP opposes actions that would criminalize the provision of medical care to undocumented foreign-born individuals”¹, and

WHEREAS the AAFP “recognizes violence as a major public health concern”², and

WHEREAS an undocumented immigrant working mother was reported to the police by her Gynecology office, resulting in her arrest and potentially her deportation³, and

WHEREAS a young man of color was shocked with a Taser, shot in the chest, and then put in handcuffs by police officers in a Texas hospital while seeking treatment for a psychotic episode⁴, and

WHEREAS Tasers are being marketed to health care institutions, 200 small community hospitals are currently using them⁵, and

WHEREAS there is no regulation of training of security personnel on the specific needs of medical settings⁶, and

WHEREAS people of color, people with disabilities, undocumented immigrants, gender non-conforming people all face higher rates of discrimination and policing on the street,

WHEREAS the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) states that it “opposes all discrimination in any form, including but not limited to, that on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic affiliation, health, age, disability, economic status, body habitus or national origin”⁷, and

WHEREAS medical facilities should be safe spaces and if they are not it furthers health disparities, and now therefore be it,

RESOLVED the NYSAFP oppose all forms of policing other than that absolutely needed for patient and staff safety issues within medical settings and, and be it further,

RESOLVED that the NYSAFP’s delegates to the AAFP Congress of Delegates will present a resolution for the AAFP to oppose policing at medical facilities.

¹ “Criminalization of the Provision of Medical Care to Undocumented Individuals,” accessed March 2, 2016, <http://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/crim-undoc.html>.

² “Violence as a Public Health Concern,” accessed March 2, 2016, <http://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/violence-public-health.html>.

³ “Woman Arrested at Gynecologist Appointment Could Face Deportation | Houston Press,” accessed March 3, 2016, <http://www.houstonpress.com/news/woman-arrested-at-gynecologist-appointment-could-face-deportation-7754827>.

⁴ Elisabeth Rosenthal, “When the Hospital Fires the Bullet,” *The New York Times*, February 12, 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/14/us/hospital-guns-mental-health.html>.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Elisabeth Rosenthal, “A Patient Shot in His Hospital Room? Evolution of a Times Story,” *The New York Times*, February 16, 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/16/insider/staph-infections-yes-but-tasers-and-guns-in-hospital-rooms.html>.

⁷ “Discrimination, Patient,” accessed March 2, 2016, <http://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/patient-discrimination.html>.

ⁱ Although he was seeking treatment for a psychotic episode, he was never actually treated for that prior to being shot. Instead, he was treated injuries from a car accident earlier that day.