

## **Criminalization of Medical Practice**

WHEREAS the American Medical Association (AMA) states in AMA Policy H-160.954 *Criminalization of Medical Judgment*:

“(1) Our AMA continues to take all reasonable and necessary steps to insure that medical decision-making, exercised in good faith, does not become a violation of criminal law. (2) Henceforth, our AMA opposes any future legislation which gives the federal government the responsibility to define appropriate medical practice and regulate such practice through the use of criminal penalties.<sup>1</sup>” and

WHEREAS the American Academy of Family Physicians has no existing policy regarding the criminalization of medical practice, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the NYSAFP take all reasonable and necessary steps to ensure that medical decision-making, exercised in good faith, does not become a violation of state or federal criminal laws and the NSYAFAF opposes any legislation which gives the government the responsibility to define appropriate medical practice and regulate such practice through the use of criminal penalties, and further be it

RESOLVED that the NYSAFP Congress instruct its delegates to the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) to introduce this resolution at the AAFP Congress in Washington D.C. in September 2006.

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<sup>1</sup> American Medical Association. H160.964 Criminalization of Medical Judgment. Sub. Res. 223, 1-93; Reaffirmed and Appended: Sub. Res. 215, 1-99. Available at [http://www.ama-assn.org/apps/pf\\_new/pf\\_online?f\\_n=browse&doc=policyfiles/HnE/H-160.954.HTM](http://www.ama-assn.org/apps/pf_new/pf_online?f_n=browse&doc=policyfiles/HnE/H-160.954.HTM).