

## **Resolution to Recognize Health Care As A Human Right**

Author(s): [Name(s) and State Chapter]

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization recognizes “the highest attainable standard of health as a fundamental right of every human being”, and “the right to health includes access to timely, acceptable, and affordable health care of appropriate quality,”<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS, the United States ranks 33<sup>th</sup> out of 34 countries in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in percentage of insured population (with 88.5%), with nearly every other country at > 98%<sup>2</sup>, and

WHEREAS, 25-30 million Americans are still uninsured after implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that this number would increase to 48 million, and continue to increase annually, with an ACA repeal<sup>3</sup>, and

WHEREAS, in a recent editorial in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), the editor-in-chief of JAMA voiced a hope that all physicians and professional societies will “speak with a single voice and say that health care is a basic right for every person, and not a privilege to be available and affordable only for a majority.”<sup>4</sup>

BE IT RESOLVED, that the *[Your State Academy]* recognizes that health care is a human right for every person, not a privilege,

AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the *[Your State Academy]* will bring a resolution to the AAFP Congress of Delegates to similarly recognize health care as a human right.

## Citations

1. World Health Organization Media Center. "Health and Human Rights." Fact Sheet N°232, Dec 2015. Accessed Feb 2017.  
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[http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/health\\_glance-2015-en](http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/health_glance-2015-en)
3. Congressional Budget Office. "How Repealing Portions of the Affordable Care Act Would Affect Health Insurance Coverage and Premiums." Jan 2017.  
<https://www.cbo.gov/publication/52371>
4. Bauchner, H. "Health Care in the United States: A Right or a Privilege." *JAMA*. 2017; 317(1):29.  
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