

RESOLUTION NUMBER: C- 01

REFERRED TO: Reference Committee on Public and Occupational Health

SUBJECT: Guiding Principles for Policy

SUBMITTED BY: Gregory Tarasidis, MD

---

1           **WHEREAS;** physicians agree to provide lifesaving treatment to all patients regardless of  
2 personal beliefs; and

3           **WHEREAS;** in nonemergent treatment, physicians’ opinions on treatment options may  
4 vary widely on emotionally charged social subject matters; and

5           **WHEREAS;** SCMA physicians have differing political ideology, religious beliefs, and  
6 personal opinions that often effect decisions in medicine; and

7           **WHEREAS;** the SCMA aims to create and support policies that will improve the practice  
8 of medicine and the health of all citizens; and

9           **WHEREAS;** voting on divisive, emotionally charged societal issues that require the  
10 SCMA to choose a political ideology or social bend to enforce creates division among physicians  
11 and ultimately hurts the practice of medicine in our state; and

12           **WHEREAS;** neutral, supportive policies can address concerns and provide support for  
13 physicians; and

14           **WHEREAS;** as an example, the SCMA already has policy supporting physicians’ right of  
15 conscience in providing medical care and opposing criminalization of physicians for providing  
16 medical care, as stated in Resolution D-10 in 2021 provided here for reference:

17                   First, that the SCMA supports right of conscience legislation and/or government  
18 actions. Physicians practice medicine in accord with their own well-considered, ethical,  
19 moral and religious beliefs. In non-emergent situations, if a physician cannot offer medical  
20 care for reasons of conscience, then the physician should recommend that the patient  
21 receive care from another provider.

22 Without limiting personal beliefs, physicians also respect the civil liberties of others, and  
23 do not support discrimination against individuals based on an individual's sex, sexual  
24 orientation, gender identity, race, religion, disability, ethnic origin, national origin, or age.

25 Second, that the SCMA opposes legislation and/or government actions that would  
26 criminalize physicians for providing evidence-based medical care within (1) the accepted  
27 standards of care according to nationally recognized professional practice guidelines, (2)  
28 the scope of a physician's training, and (3) professional judgment.

29 Third, the SCMA opposes any attempt from physician employers to discriminate  
30 against physicians for adhering to the above protections in providing care to patients; and

31 **WHEREAS;** the SCMA encourages policies that support the ability to practice medicine  
32 without choosing sides on divisive, social issues that exist within medicine; therefore be it

33 **RESOLVED;** that the SCMA sets forth the following guidance principles:

- 34 (1) The SCMA does not choose political and ideological sides in nonemergent divisive  
35 issues in medicine and supports physician choice in decision-making; and  
36 (2) The SCMA affirms that the doctor-patient relationship is the foundation of safe and  
37 ethical medical care, with decision-making between a physician and a patient private  
38 and specific to the patient's conditions.

April 2023