

RESOLUTION NUMBER: C- 03

REFERRED TO: Reference Committee on Public and Occupational Health

SUBJECT: Resolution Supporting Abortion as an Essential Component of Health Care

SUBMITTED BY: Marc Bingham, MD and Griffin Cupstid, MD

1 **WHEREAS;** the American Academy of Family Physicians policy specifically supports a
2 woman’s access to reproductive and maternity health services including abortion, and opposes
3 restrictions on medical care and the provision of such services; and

4 **WHEREAS;** American Medical Association policy affirms that healthcare, including
5 reproductive health services is a human right, and opposes limitations on access to evidence-based
6 reproductive health services, including fertility treatments, contraception, and abortion; and

7 **WHEREAS;** American Medical Association policy calls for state medical societies to
8 vigorously advocate for broad, equitable access to reproductive health services, including abortion;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS;** American Medical Association policy supports shared decision-making
11 between patients and their physicians regarding reproductive healthcare; and opposes any effort to
12 undermine the basic medical principle that clinical assessments, such as viability of the pregnancy
13 and safety of the pregnant person, are determinations to be made only by healthcare professionals
14 with their patients; and

15 **WHEREAS;** American Medical Association policy opposes the imposition of criminal
16 and civil penalties or other retaliatory efforts against patients, patient advocates, physicians, other
17 healthcare workers, and health systems for receiving, assisting in, referring patients to, or
18 providing reproductive health services; and

19 **WHEREAS;** American Medical Association policy advocates for legal protections for
20 patients who cross state lines to receive reproductive health services, including contraception and
21 abortion, or who receive medications for contraception and abortion from across state lines, and
22 legal protections for those that provide, support, or refer patients to these services; and

23 **WHEREAS;** the South Carolina Medical Association takes all reasonable and necessary
24 steps to ensure that its members can exercise medical decision-making and treatment in good faith,
25 and in concert with informed consent and patient autonomy; and

26 **WHEREAS;** abortion bans and other restrictions violate long-established and widely
27 accepted medical ethical principles of beneficence, nonmaleficence, and respect for patient
28 autonomy; and

29 **WHEREAS;** South Carolina has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the country,
30 ranking 42nd out of 50, and the maternal mortality rate is three times higher in South Carolina for
31 women of color; therefore, be it

32 **RESOLVED;** that the South Carolina Medical Association affirms that there is broad
33 medical consensus from over 75 national medical organizations, including the American Medical
34 Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American College of Obstetricians
35 and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, the
36 American Psychiatric Association, the American Public Health Association, and the American
37 Board of Surgery that abortion is an essential component of reproductive healthcare; and be it
38 further

39 **RESOLVED;** that the South Carolina Medical Association affirms that government and
40 other third-party interference in evidence-based medical care compromises the sanctity of the
41 physician-patient relationship and undermines the provision of quality health care; and be it further

42 **RESOLVED;** that the South Carolina Medical Association opposes any government
43 regulation or legislative action which would criminalize or restrict physicians for providing
44 evidence-based medical care, including abortion, within the accepted standard of care according
45 to nationally recognized professional practice guidelines, the scope of a physician's training, and
46 professional judgment.

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