
PRESS RELEASES

AMA adopts new policies on first day of voting at 2019 Annual Meeting

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CHICAGO — The American Medical Association (AMA), the premier national physician organization in the country, voted to adopt new policies on emerging health care topics during the first day of voting at its Annual Meeting.

The AMA's House of Delegates is the policy-making body at the center of American medicine, bringing together an inclusive group of physicians, medical students and residents representing every state and medical field. Delegates work in a democratic process to create a national physician consensus on emerging issues in public health, science, ethics, business and government to continually provide safer, higher quality and more efficient care for patients and communities.

The policies adopted by the House of Delegates today include:

AMA takes action to help prevent anti-transgender violence

Fatal attacks against transgender people have prompted the AMA to adopt a plan to help bring national attention to the epidemic of violence against the transgender community, especially the amplified physical dangers faced by transgender people of color.

"According to available tracking, fatal anti-transgender violence in the U.S. is on the rise and most victims were black transgender women," said AMA Board Member S. Bobby Mukkamala, M.D. "The number of victims could be even higher due to

To highlight the discrimination and physical dangers faced by the LGBTQ community, and the disturbing pattern of violence toward black transgender women, the physicians and medical students gathered at the AMA Annual Meeting adopted policy directing the AMA to:

- Form partnerships with other medical organizations and stakeholders to educate members of the public, legislatures and law enforcement using verified data on hate crimes against transgender individuals and highlight the disproportionate number fatal attacks on black transgender women.
- Advocate for consistent collection and reporting of data on hate crimes across all levels of law enforcement that includes demographic information on a victim's birth sex and gender identity.
- Advocate for a central law enforcement database to collect data on reported hate crimes that correctly identifies a victim's birth sex and gender identity.
- Advocate for stronger law enforcement policies regarding interactions with transgender individuals in order to prevent bias and mistreatment and increase community trust.
- Advocate for local, state, and federal efforts that will increase access to mental health treatment and address the health disparities that LGBTQ individuals experience.

The Human Rights Campaign publishes information regarding the prevalence of physical dangers faced by members of the LGBTQ community. For details, see [National Epidemic: Fatal Anti-Transgender Violence in America in 2018](#).

AMA supports mature minors ability to consent to vaccinations

In response to the-emergence of vaccine preventable diseases in the United States, the AMA will support state policies allowing minors to override their parent's refusal for vaccinations. Under the new policy adopted by the nation's physicians, the AMA will encourage state legislatures to establish comprehensive vaccine and minor consent policies.

"The prevalence of unvaccinated pediatric patients is troubling to physicians," said Dr. Mukkamala. "Many children go unvaccinated as anti-vaccine related messages

type of preventive care.”

The overwhelming scientific evidence shows that vaccines are among the most effective and safest interventions to both prevent individual illness and protect public health. The inability of minors in some states to provide consent to vaccinations has been cited as a barrier to improved vaccination rate. The reductions in vaccination coverage threaten to erase many years of progress against preventable diseases.

As evident from the recent record measles outbreaks, when people decide not to be immunized as a matter of personal preference or misinformation, they put themselves and others at risk of disease.

AMA supports greater outreach to help human trafficking victims

The scale of human trafficking indicates a persistent need for community responses to serve victims and survivors. New AMA policy adopted today by the nation’s physicians acknowledges the unique and critical role doctors have in preventing human trafficking.

The new AMA policy supports the posting signs, notices, posters, placards and other educational material in local clinics, emergency departments and other medical settings to provide information about reporting human trafficking activities, or provide information that connects victims and survivors with assistance.

“The AMA believes that the health care setting is an ideal place to engage with victims and survivors of human trafficking to get them the help and resources they so desperately need,” said Dr. Mukkamala. “Victims and survivors who fear their captors or law enforcement rarely seek help and posting information in medical facilities can provide the lifeline they desperately need.”

In accordance with the new policy, the AMA will urge the federal government to make changes in laws to allow local clinics, emergency departments and other medical settings to post the phone number for the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

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About the American Medical Association

The American Medical Association is the physicians' powerful ally in patient care. As the only medical association that convenes 190+ state and specialty medical societies and other critical stakeholders, the AMA represents physicians with a unified voice to all key players in health care. The AMA leverages its strength by removing the obstacles that interfere with patient care, leading the charge to prevent chronic disease and confront public health crises and, driving the future of medicine to tackle the biggest challenges in health care.

[AMA Press Center](#) [AMA Policies](#)

[Annual Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates](#)



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