

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 418  
(A-08)

Introduced by: Illinois Delegation  
Subject: A Modern Chemicals Policy  
Referred to: Reference Committee D  
(Robert T. M. Phillips, MD, PhD, Chair)

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1 Whereas, A California Medical Association Resolution 712-07 reads:

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3 *RESOLVED: That the CMA calls upon the State of California and United States*  
4 *to implement a modern, comprehensive chemicals policy in line with current*  
5 *scientific knowledge on human health, and which requires a full evaluation of*  
6 *the health impacts of both newly developed and existing industrial chemicals*  
7 *now in use;*

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9 *RESOLVED: That this matter be referred for national action (AMA); and*

10  
11 Whereas, In 2007, a Washington State Medical Association resolution encouraged safer  
12 chemicals policies and regulatory reform of industrial chemicals to protect and improve human  
13 life, as follows:

14  
15 *RESOLVED, that the WSMA supports Washington State legislative efforts to*  
16 *protect the public, particularly children, from harmful chemicals in consumer*  
17 *products, to reduce the burden of toxic exposure and improve public health for*  
18 *Washington's citizens; and*

19  
20 Whereas, The Illinois State Medical Society has several policies related to the chemical health  
21 hazards, including 1) the need to reduce and eventually eliminate mercury use in health care  
22 facilities, 2) the design and construction of environmentally friendly hospital facilities by  
23 eliminating the use of toxic paints, adhesives, carpeting, and other hazardous materials, 3)  
24 opposition to new or expansion of existing hazardous waste landfills over aquifers; and 4)  
25 development of national environmental contaminant bio-monitoring programs to track harmful  
26 chemicals and toxic agents; and

27  
28 Whereas, The global scale of industrial chemical production is immense and is expected to grow  
29 four-fold by 2050, and the chemical industry is an important industry in the United States, and its  
30 contributions to health and human development are widely recognized; and

31  
32 Whereas, Many chemicals that are useful to society are also known to be hazardous to human  
33 biology, particularly in utero and in developing children; and

34

1 Whereas, There are long-standing deficiencies in the federal regulation of industrial chemicals,  
2 most notably in the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA); and, the University of California  
3 (UC) documented in a March 2006 report to the California Legislature that TSCA's deficiencies  
4 have produced a chemical Data Gap, Safety Gap, and Technology Gap in the United States; and  
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6 Whereas, The UC report, prepared by a multidisciplinary group of experts, illustrates that these  
7 gaps have prevented public agencies from effectively assessing the hazards of the great majority  
8 of chemicals in commercial circulation or controlling those of greatest concern, and that these  
9 Gaps are adversely affecting public, occupational, and environmental health, as well as business,  
10 industry, and government; and  
11

12 Whereas, On a global level fundamental changes are needed in the way that societies manage  
13 chemicals; and  
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15 Whereas, Environment ministers, health ministers and other delegates from over 100  
16 governments, together with representatives of civil society and the private sector, declared in  
17 Dubai, February 6, 2006, that “the environment worldwide continues to suffer from air, water  
18 and land contamination, impairing the health and welfare of millions”; and  
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20 Whereas, The Dubai group adopted the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals  
21 Management (SAICM), a global plan of action whose stated goal is: “to achieve the sound  
22 management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle so that, by 2020, chemicals are used and  
23 produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health  
24 and the environment”; therefore be it  
25

26 **RESOLVED**, That our American Medical Association gather all stakeholders to craft and  
27 develop a modern, comprehensive national chemicals policy. (Directive to Take Action)  
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29 Fiscal Note: Estimated cost of \$29,500 to convene a group of approximately 20 stakeholders to  
30 develop report.  
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32 Received: 04/30/08