

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

Resolution: _____

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Subject: ADDRESSING IMMIGRANT DISCRIMINATION AND HEALTH DISPARITIES
Referred to: Reference Committee

1 Whereas unaccompanied migrant children facing forced displacement from their birth
2 countries due to the threat of violence by organized and armed criminal actors, violence in
3 the home, or exploitation by human traffickers have crossed into the United States in
4 increasing numbers;^{1,2} and

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6 Whereas the United States has a long and regrettable history of falsely accusing immigrant
7 populations of importing infectious diseases including allegations that Irish immigrants
8 brought cholera into the country; Jews, tuberculosis; Italians, polio; and Chinese, bubonic
9 plague;³ and

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11 Whereas unaccompanied migrant children coming now to the United States do not carry
12 unusual disease risks like Ebola⁴ and, in fact, have comparable or higher vaccination rates
13 for common childhood diseases, such as diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, hepatitis
14 B, meningococcus, and hemophilus influenza type B, than children in the United States;⁵
15 and

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17 Whereas unaccompanied minor children entering the United States are already screened
18 for TB and vaccinated for varicella as part of protocol through the Department of Health and
19 Human Services' Unaccompanied Alien Children Program;⁶ and

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21 Whereas the medical profession's response to disease challenges should be providing
22 evidence-based appropriate treatment of all patients based on accurate data, regardless of
23 legal status or where geographic borders lie; therefore, be it

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25 RESOLVED, that AAFP urge federal and state government agencies to ensure routine,
26 evidence-based health care screening, access and treatment for newly immigrated
27 populations; and be it further

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29 RESOLVED, that AAFP commit to stand against scaremongering, profiling and other
30 discriminatory practices, and/or messaging that denigrates and/or depicts immigrant
31 populations in such a light that leads towards marginalization as it relates to human rights
32 and healthcare such as inaccurate accusations that immigrants pose major threats to public
33 health; and be it further

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35 RESOLVED, that AAFP support policies to reduce health disparities borne by immigrants,
36 refugees or asylees.

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1 **References**

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