

1 **RESOLUTION #23-13**

2 **ENTITLED:** Oppose Criminalization of Medical Care

3 **SUBMITTED BY:** Alison Case MD, Cynthia Heckman-Davis MD, Mary Mahern MD

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5 WHEREAS, medical care provision across state lines and the implementation of telemedicine have  
6 increased access to healthcare in rural and underserved populations, and  
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8 WHEREAS, several states have restricted abortion and have threatened access to other reproductive  
9 healthcare including contraception, and  
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11 WHEREAS, several states have passed bills that ban minors from traveling to obtain an abortion  
12 without parental consent, and  
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14 WHEREAS, several states are looking to restrict gender affirming care and its provision, and  
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16 WHEREAS, some legislation criminalizes the provision of or aid in accessing medical care, and  
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18 WHEREAS, lack of access to reproductive care has been shown to be harmful to patient outcomes,  
19 and  
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21 WHEREAS, lack of access to gender-affirming care has been shown to increase poor mental health  
22 outcomes, especially in young people, and  
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24 WHEREAS, the American Medical Association (AMA) opposes any and all attempts to criminalize  
25 health care decision making between a patient and their doctor, and current AMA president Dr. Jack  
26 Resneck Jr. has called the criminalization of medicine “extremely dangerous.”, and  
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28 WHEREAS, The American Medical Association (AMA), American Psychiatric Association (APA),  
29 American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American College of Physicians (ACP), and the American  
30 College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) have issued statements validating gender  
31 affirming care as evidence based medicine, therefore be it  
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33 RESOLVED, that the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians adopt policy on Criminalization of Medical  
34 Practice to read “The Indiana Academy of Family Physicians takes all reasonable and necessary steps  
35 to ensure that evidence-based medical decision-making and treatment, exercised in accordance with  
36 evidence-based standards of care, does not become a violation of criminal law. This includes  
37 criminalization of clinicians, patients, and those who aid patients in receiving reproductive, abortion, or  
38 gender affirming health care across state lines.”, and be it further  
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40 RESOLVED, that the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians oppose legislation that would prosecute  
41 or otherwise penalize physicians and other clinicians, patients, and those who aid patients in receiving  
42 reproductive, abortion, or gender affirming health care across state lines, and be it further  
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44 RESOLVED, that the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians will collaborate with other state medical  
45 associations to provide a united front against further Indiana General Assembly efforts to criminalize  
46 medical care, and to educate legislators of the consequences of criminalizing medical care.  
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1 RELEVANT IAFP POLICY:

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**Criminalization**

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RECOMMEND that the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) continue to fight against criminal prosecution of physicians for providing medical care per our existing policies. (2019)

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