

1 **RESOLUTION #23-10**

2 **ENTITLED:** Supporting Physicians as Advocates

3 **SUBMITTED BY:** Alison Case, MD

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5 WHEREAS, the American Medical Association Code of Ethics Opinion 1.2.10 states that “physicians
6 have an ethical responsibility to seek change when they believe the requirements of law or policy are
7 contrary to the best interests of patients;” and

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9 WHEREAS, physicians have a unique knowledge, expertise, and experience in areas of healthcare
10 delivery, outcomes, and social and political determinants of health; and

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12 WHEREAS, physicians are citizens with all of the first amendment rights afforded therein; and

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14 WHEREAS, physicians in Indiana have been harassed and subject to acts of legal and regulatory
15 retaliation by representatives of the state because of their commitment to their role as advocates for
16 their patients; therefore be it

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18 RESOLVED, that the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians will publicly commit to support and defend
19 any physician subject to harassment by any party for their lawful work as an advocate regardless of
20 that physician’s active membership in the IAFP; and be it further,

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22 RESOLVED, that the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians its tangible and intangible resources to
23 oppose any act of political or regulatory retaliation committed by the state or federal government
24 against a physician for their lawful role as an advocate; and be it further

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26 RESOLVED, that the Indiana Academy of Family Physicians delegation to the American Academy of
27 Family Physicians (AAFP) urge the AAFP to strongly denounce and act in opposition to any punitive
28 governmental actions or legislation to limit the role of physicians as advocates.

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30 References:

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32 1. American Medical Association Code of Medical Ethics. “Chapter 1: Patient-Physician
33 Relationships” American Medical Association, 2016,
34 <https://code-medical-ethics.ama-assn.org/chapters/patient-physician-relationships>. Accessed
35 26 May 2023.