

RESOLUTION 09.2022-15 (A-23)
SUPPORTING THE MENTAL HEALTH OF MEDICAL STUDENTS

ISMS Board Action Taken on 10/22/2022

Did not adopt Resolution 09.2022-15 (A-23).

Council on Education & Health Workforce Recommendation to ISMS Board on
10/22/2022

This resolution calls for ISMS to create policy supporting medical student access to affordable physician-led mental health services without student insurance coverage limitation on number of visits; encourage the Illinois delegation to the AMA to draft an amendment to AMA Policy 11-295.858 (Access to Confidential Health Services for Medical Students and Physicians) to add that the number or times the medical student or physician is seen in a mental health service appointment should not be the sole criterion of the necessity or adequacy of psychiatric care; and that policy be created to support development and maintenance of medical school- and/or medical student-driven wellness programs which may emphasize routes to address burnout in the education process, developing support networks between students and faculty, discussions on purpose in medicine, and sharing evidence-based and anecdotal methods for student success and wellbeing.

One of the authors of the resolution, Mr. Connor Cole, was available for explanation and comment on the resolution and to address any questions. Mr. Cole stated that the purpose of the resolution is to ensure access for medical students to mental health services without limiting the number of visits a medical student can incur.

There was significant discussion on the importance of mental health services for all health care professionals, but the Council questioned the overall effectiveness of the resolution, given similar policies that support access to mental health services for medical students. Members noted that, with respect to the resolveds calling for students to have access to mental health services without visit limits, this is not an issue that is unique to medical students. Ultimately, Council members did not believe adopting the resolution would result in a positive impact on medical student access to mental health services.

The Council on Education & Health Workforce recommends that the ISMS Board of Trustees not adopt Resolution 09.2022-15 (A-23).