

ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

Resolution 09.2022-14  
(A-23)

Introduced by: Nancy R.G. Church, MD, ISMS Member

Subject: Protecting Physicians and Healthcare Workers from Violence and Aggression

Referred to: Council on Education & Health Workforce

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1           Whereas, news media reports highlight a significant increase in aggression and  
2 violence against physicians and healthcare workers; and

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4           Whereas, harassment of physicians threatens and distracts them from their real  
5 mission to educate and protect patients; and

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7           Whereas, threats and violence and aggression against physicians have  
8 contributed to early exit or retirement from the medical profession; therefore, be it

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10           RESOLVED, that as a specific action, ISMS provide information and guidance  
11 to physicians and healthcare professionals to assist in the development of such site-  
12 specific matters as protocols, procedures and mechanisms to ensure a safer and more  
13 secure environment. Such measures might include:

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15           • Development of robust surveillance, data collection systems, and technologies  
16 and standards to track hate-base violence directed at physicians and healthcare  
17 workers by patients or community members.  
18           • Security and safety response protocols to protect physicians and other healthcare  
19 workers to ensure their freedom from hate-based violence and intimidation.  
20           • Solidarity-based strategies to mobilize individuals and organizations across the  
21 healthcare ecosystem, to name, confront, and effectively resist hate-based  
22 violence and intimidation.

**Fiscal Note:**

None

**Existing ISMS policy related to this issue:**

ISMS condemns the daily firearm violence throughout our state and nation, and supports funding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) research on firearm safety or gun violence prevention. (HOD 2016)

House of Delegates adopted Substitute Resolution C314 (A-16) which calls for ISMS to condemn the daily firearm violence throughout our state and nation, express continued support for funding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) research on firearm safety or gun violence prevention, and urge the American Medical Association (AMA) to join with all major national medical societies to work together toward achieving increased public and private funding for the development, evaluation and implementation of evidence-based programs and policies to reduce firearm-related injury and death. (HOD 2016)

Board of Trustees approved seeking a grant from the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority for an educational program for ISMS members. (BOT 2000-FEB)

It is the policy of ISMS to support data gathering and detailed epidemiologic surveillance by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) of all violent deaths and injuries, by means of mandatory case reporting and to proceed systematically to implement the full scale public health policy approach to the problem of violence in Illinois. (HOD 1994; Last BOT Review 2013)