

Resolution Opposing Criminalization of Physicians Providing Care Within Scope of Training and Accepted Standard of Medical Care for Their Specialty

WHEREAS, physicians have a professional and ethical obligation to act in the best interest of their patients by following evidence-based practices,

WHEREAS, physicians act in the best interest of their patients' access to needed medical services,

WHEREAS, the physician-patient relationship relies on a physician's ability to use his or her medical judgment as to the information or treatment that is in the best interest of a patient,

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Medical Association takes all reasonable and necessary steps to ensure that its members can exercise medical decision-making and treatment in good faith,

WHEREAS, South Carolina state laws should not criminalize physicians for practicing within the accepted standard of medical care and within the scope of training for their specialty,

WHEREAS, government or other third parties that seek to criminalize a physician's ability to use his or her professional medical judgment as to the treatment that is in the best interest of a patient compromise the trusted nature of the physician-patient relationship; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Medical Association affirms that government and other third-party interference in evidence-based medical care compromises the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship and undermines the provision of quality health care; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Medical Association opposes any government regulation or legislative action which would criminalize physicians for providing evidence-based medical care within the accepted standard of care according to nationally recognized professional practice guidelines, and the scope of a physician's training and professional judgment.