

RESOLUTION NO. 6/11

Subject: Leadership to Address the Primary Care Shortage Needs of Alabama
Submitted by: Pickens County Medical Society
Referred to: Reference Committee

1 WHEREAS, the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA) has a historical and continuing
2 role in assuring public health and the quality of community healthcare in Alabama; and
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4 WHEREAS, MASA provides health care leadership to the state through establishing policy, encouraging,
5 advocating, and educating about public health and quality of care; and
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7 WHEREAS, primary care medicine is effective in raising health status, supporting hospitals, and improv-
8 ing the economic status of disadvantaged communities; and
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10 WHEREAS, Alabama ranks 45 out of 50 states in health status; and
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12 WHEREAS, 60 of 67 Alabama counties are Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas and eight
13 counties do not have a hospital; and
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15 WHEREAS, it is estimated that Alabama is 130 to 400 primary care physicians short now and many of
16 the current primary care physicians are nearing retirement; and
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18 WHEREAS, the aging of population is causing an escalation in need for primary care; and
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20 WHEREAS, the shortage of primary care physicians is nationwide, requiring new primary care physi-
21 cians to be produced; and
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23 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama supports publicly funded medical schools to educate physicians for Al-
24 abama; and
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26 WHEREAS, the publicly funded medical schools of Alabama have not kept pace with the need for pri-
27 mary care physicians for rural and urban areas; and
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29 WHEREAS, medical schools that have made primary care a priority have found various means to produce
30 more primary care physicians; and
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32 WHEREAS, historically MASA has participated in directing the state health officer, advising the board of
33 trustees governing Alabama's public medical schools, educating the public, and advocating for state
34 health policy change; now, therefore, be it
35
36 RESOLVED, that the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA) in its role of protecting the
37 health and providing for the healthcare of the people of Alabama adopt as policy that the state of Alabama
38 through its publicly funded medical schools has an obligation to provide for a primary care workforce suf-
39 ficient to meet the needs of all the citizens of Alabama and exert its roles of directing, advising, educating
40 and advocacy to influence the success of this policy.

RESOLUTION NO. 7/11

Subject: A Medical Plan for the Economic Development of Rural Alabama
Submitted by: Pickens County Medical Society
Referred to: Reference Committee

1 WHEREAS, the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA) has a historical and continuing
2 role in assuring public health and the quality of community health care in Alabama; and
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4 WHEREAS, MASA provides healthcare leadership to the state through establishing policy, encouraging,
5 advocating, and educating about public health and quality of care; and
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7 WHEREAS, all 55 rural counties of Alabama are Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas and
8 rank high in health care disparities, and eight rural counties do not have a hospital; and
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10 WHEREAS, all rural counties of Alabama seek the benefits of economic development, and one practicing
11 family physician generates on average more than \$1 million per year of economic impact; and
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13 WHEREAS, the Rural Medical Scholar Program has proven conclusively to produce family physicians at
14 10 times the rate of medical students in the regular pathway of study (44% vs. 4%); and
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16 WHEREAS, 80% of Rural Medical Scholars who choose rural practice have accepted financial support
17 from the State of Alabama Board of Medical Scholarship Awards; and
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19 WHEREAS, since 2004 the Rural Medical Scholars Program has produced 33 primary care physicians
20 (including 29 family physicians) in practice in 21 rural Alabama counties, generating \$141 million of
21 rural economic development; and
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23 WHEREAS, the Rural Medical Scholars Program is limited to 10 students per year and its duplicate, the
24 Rural Medical Program, is likewise limited; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) has encouraged its members to in-
27 crease the training and graduation rates of the needed primary care physicians; now, therefore, be it
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29 RESOLVED, that the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA) advise, encourage, and ad-
30 vocate for the state of Alabama through its publicly funded medical schools to expand the number of stu-
31 dents admitted annually to the Rural Medical Scholars Program and Rural Medical Program to at least 20
32 students for each program; and be it further
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34 RESOLVED, that MASA advise, encourage, and advocate for the state of Alabama through its legislative
35 bodies and Board of Medical Scholarship Awards to provide a full scholarship to each student admitted to
36 the Rural Medical Scholars Program (RMSP) and the Rural Medical Program (RMP) who is committed to
37 practice in an underserved rural, primary care shortage area in Alabama upon completion of their training.

RESOLUTION NO. 8/11

Subject: Plan to Produce a Certain Kind of Physicians for the Black Belt
Submitted by: Pickens County Medical Society
Referred to: Reference Committee

- 1 WHEREAS, the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA) has a historical and continuing
2 role in assuring public health and the quality of community healthcare in Alabama; and
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4 WHEREAS, MASA provides healthcare leadership to the state through establishing policy, encouraging,
5 advocating, and educating about public health and quality of care, including advising the board of trustees
6 governing Alabama's public medical schools; and
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8 WHEREAS, the film "A Certain Kind" portrays chronic and desperate need in the Black Belt for primary
9 care physicians that are culturally compatible and professionally prepared for local life and service in
10 order to raise health status, support hospitals, and improve economic conditions in the deprived communi-
11 ties of this 13-county Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) region; and
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13 WHEREAS, medical education adapted to the local place and culture of students promotes the production
14 of physicians from and for underserved, disparate rural communities; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Association of American Medical Colleges has shown that students with equivalent
17 grades, but lower MCAT scores, complete medical school within five years at the same rate as do students
18 with high MCAT scores; and
19
20 WHEREAS, the Rural Medical Scholars Program of the College of Community Health Sciences/Univer-
21 sity of Alabama School of Medicine-Tuscaloosa (CCHS/UASOM-T) produces rural Alabama physicians
22 from rural students with lower MCAT scores; and
23
24 WHEREAS, the CCHS/UASOM-T has a special rural mission and demonstrated success at adapting
25 pipeline programs, premedical graduate study, clinical medical education, and family medicine residency
26 to produce physicians for much of rural Alabama; and
27
28 WHEREAS, additional adaptations of medical education will be required to produce the "Certain Kind"
29 of physicians needed in the Black Belt to assure quality care and public health; and
30
31 WHEREAS, the liaison committee on medical education accredits separate medical educational tracks,
32 programs, and two-and four-year branch campuses; now, therefore, be it
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34 RESOLVED, that the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA) in its role of protecting the
35 health and providing for the healthcare of the people of Alabama adopt as policy that the State of Alabama
36 through its publicly funded medical schools has an obligation to provide primary care physicians for the
37 Black Belt; and be it further
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39 RESOLVED, that MASA exert its roles to advise, encourage, and advocate that the board of trustees of
40 the University of Alabama further develop the capabilities of the College of Community Health Sci-
41 ences/University of Alabama School of Medicine-Tuscaloosa branch campus into a comprehensive four-
42 year medical program with a dedicated rural mission and a special focus on Alabama's Black Belt, in
43 collaboration with other disciplines addressing health disparities of this region.

RESOLUTION NO. 9/11

Subject: Plan to Address Geographic Maldistribution of Alabama Physicians
Submitted by: Pickens County Medical Society
Referred to: Reference Committee

- 1 WHEREAS, the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA) has a historical and continuing
2 role in assuring public health and the quality of community healthcare in Alabama; and
3
- 4 WHEREAS, MASA provides health care leadership to the state through establishing policy, encouraging,
5 advocating, and educating about public health and quality of care, including advising the board of trustees
6 governing Alabama's public medical schools; and
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- 8 WHEREAS, all 55 rural counties of Alabama are Primary Medical Care Health Professional Shortage
9 Areas (HPSAs); and
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- 11 WHEREAS, many rural counties currently recruit temporary physicians resulting in rapid turn-over and
12 disrupted doctor-patient relationships; and
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- 14 WHEREAS, medical students from rural areas training for primary care are likely to return home to prac-
15 tice; and
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- 17 WHEREAS, in 2009-2010, 10 rural Alabama counties had no medical students, 14 counties had only one,
18 12 had only two, the 12 Black Belt counties (18% of counties) had 10 (1% of students), and the 20 Delta
19 Region counties (30% of counties) had 25 (2.5%) in Alabama's medical schools; and
20
- 21 WHEREAS, the Association of American Medical Colleges has shown that students with equivalent
22 grades, but lower MCAT scores, complete medical school within five years at the same rate as do students
23 with high MCAT scores; and
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- 25 WHEREAS, the Rural Medical Scholars Program has shown that rural Alabama students admitted with
26 lower MCAT scores complete medical school within four years at the same rate as other students; now,
27 therefore, be it
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- 29 RESOLVED, that the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA) in its role of protecting the
30 health and providing for the healthcare of the people of Alabama adopt as policy that the state of Alabama
31 through its publicly funded medical schools has an obligation to provide primary care physicians for all
32 counties in Alabama, and be it further
33
- 34 RESOLVED, that MASA exert its roles to advise, encourage, and advocate that the board of trustees of
35 the University of Alabama and board of trustees of the University of South Alabama lead their medical
36 schools to coordinate admission programs to assure that annually each Alabama county that produces any
37 applicant who attains the schools' published qualifications for admission has at least one student accepted
38 to a state of Alabama medical school.

[Recommendations of Reference Committee were Accepted]

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 6/11 - LEADERSHIP TO ADDRESS THE PRIMARY CARE SHORTAGE NEEDS OF ALABAMA

RECOMMENDATION A: Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that Resolution No. 6/11 be amended to read as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA) in its role of protecting the health and providing for the healthcare of the people of Alabama ~~adopt as policy that~~ encourages the state of Alabama and through its ~~publicly funded medical schools has an obligation to provide for~~ a primary care workforce sufficient to meet the needs of all the citizens of Alabama and exert

its roles of directing, advising, educating and advocacy to influence the success of this ~~policy effort~~.

RECOMMENDATION B: Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that Resolution No. 6/11 be adopted as amended.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 7/11 - A MEDICAL PLAN FOR THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL ALABAMA

RECOMMENDATION: Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that Resolution No. 7/11 be amended to read as follows:

RESOLVED, that the Medical Association of the State of Alabama (MASA) ~~advise, and encourage, and advocate for~~ the state of Alabama through and its ~~publicly funded medical schools to expand the number of students admitted annually to the Rural Medical Scholars Program and Rural Medical Program; to at least 20 students for each program; and be it further~~

RESOLVED, that MASA ~~advise, encourage, and advocate for the state of Alabama through its legislative bodies and Board of Medical Scholarship Awards~~ support efforts to provide a full scholarship to each student admitted to the Rural Medical Scholars Program (RMSP) and the Rural Medical Program (RMP) who is committed to practice in an underserved rural, primary care shortage area in Alabama upon completion of ~~their~~ his or her training.

RECOMMENDATION B: Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that Resolution No. 7/11 be adopted as amended.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 8/11 - PLAN TO PRODUCE A CERTAIN KIND OF PHYSICIANS FOR THE BLACK BELT

RECOMMENDATION: Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that Resolution No. 8/11 be referred to the Board of Censors for decision with report to the House of Delegates at the 2012 Annual Session.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 9/11 - PLAN TO ADDRESS GEOGRAPHIC MALDISTRIBUTION OF ALABAMA PHYSICIANS

RECOMMENDATION: Madam Speaker, your Reference Committee recommends that Resolution No. 9/11 not be adopted.