

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
MEDICAL STUDENT SECTION

Resolution 12
(A-11)

Introduced by: Anand Reddi, University of Colorado School of Medicine
Subject: Enacting a Global Health Service Corps
Referred to: MSS Reference Committee
(Brandi Ring, Chair)

1 Whereas, In a commentary in The New England Journal of Medicine, Vanessa Kerry, Sara Auld, and Paul
2 Farmer propose a Global Health Service Corps (GHSC);¹ and
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4 Whereas, The GHSC would be a federally funded program of skilled health professionals who provide
5 medical education and capacity building to enhance the healthcare workforce and health infrastructure in
6 low-income countries;¹ and
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8 Whereas, GHSC would offer forgiveness of student loans for corps members who engage in medical-
9 service and capacity-building partnerships abroad for a minimum of one year;¹ and
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11 Whereas, Our AMA-MSS and AMA have enthusiastically endorsed global health education and
12 international experiential learning opportunities, however there is currently no policy supporting the
13 creation of a GHSC type-program despite the intense interest amongst our AMA-MSS on the subject;
14 therefore be it
15

16 RESOLVED, That our AMA-MSS ask the AMA to endorse a federally-funded program offering loan
17 forgiveness to skilled health professionals that participate in at least one year of medical education and
18 capacity building to enhance the healthcare system and infrastructure in low-income countries, as
19 proposed by Kerry, Auld, and Farmer in their The New England Journal of Medicine article “An
20 International Service Corps for Health—an Unconventional Prescription for Diplomacy”.

Fiscal note: TBD

References:

1. Kerry, V.B., Auld, S. & Farmer, P. An international service corps for health--an unconventional prescription for diplomacy. *N Engl J Med* 363, 1199-1201 (2010).

Relevant AMA and MSS Policy:

295.155MSS Global Health Education:

AMA-MSS will ask the AMA to (1) recognize the importance of global health education for medical students; and (2) encourage medical schools to include global health learning opportunities in their medical education curricula. (MSS Res 9, I-10)

295.156MSS Medical School International Service Learning Opportunities:

AMA-MSS will ask the AMA to (1) work with the Association of American Medical Colleges, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, and other relevant organizations to ensure that medical school international service-learning opportunities are structured to contribute meaningfully to medical education and that medical students are appropriately prepared for these experiences; and (2) work with the Association of American Medical Colleges, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, and other relevant organizations

to ensure that medical students participating in international service-learning opportunities are held to the same ethical and professional standards as students participating in domestic service-learning opportunities. (MSS Res 13, I-10)

H-250.986 AMA and Public Health in Developing Countries

Our AMA will adhere to a focused strategy that channels and leverages our reach into the global health community, primarily through participation in the World Medical Association and the World Health Organization. (BOT Rep. 5, A-07)