

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 516
(A-09)

Introduced by: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont Delegations

Subject: Advocating and Support for Light Pollution Control Efforts and Glare Reduction for Both Public Safety and Energy Savings

Referred to: Reference Committee E
(Martin G. Guerrero, MD, Chair)

1 Whereas, Our AMA has long advocated for policies that are scientifically sound and that
2 positively influence public health policy; and
3

4 Whereas, We in the AMA have an opportunity to influence and promote legislation at both the
5 national and state level on energy savings through a reduction in light pollution; and
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7 Whereas, Light pollution is increasingly recognized as a waste of energy and a public safety
8 issue; and
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10 Whereas, It has been calculated that over 10 billion dollars in wasted energy could be saved
11 with the use of full cutoff streetlights; and
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13 Whereas, Emitted glare light is wasted light and accounts for about 40% of the light emitted by
14 standard streetlights (cobras), it is therefore a significant source of wasted electricity, and this
15 contributes to excess carbon dioxide production and possibly global warming; and
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17 Whereas, Numerous states (Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine,
18 Michigan, Montana, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Wyoming), many
19 municipalities, and several countries have now enacted Light pollution control measures; and
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21 Whereas, Light pollution control legislation is being proposed in Congress; and
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23 Whereas, Streetlight glare causes decreased nighttime visibility by pupil constriction, and thus
24 leads to diminished nighttime visibility and creates a safety hazard^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7}; and
25

26 Whereas, Many older citizens are significantly affected by glare as the eye ages, leading to
27 unsafe driving conditions^{8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15}; and
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29 Whereas, Glare light is also light trespass and is intrusive and unwanted in households and
30 dwellings; and
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32 Whereas, Light trespass has been implicated in disruption of the human and animal circadian
33 rhythm, and strongly suspected as an etiology of suppressed melatonin production, depressed
34 immune systems, and increase in cancer rates such as breast cancers^{16,17,18,19,20,21,22}; and
35

36 Whereas, Light trespass disrupts nocturnal animal activity and results in diminished various
37 animal populations' survival and health²³; therefore be it

- 1 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association advocate that all future outdoor lighting be
2 of energy efficient designs to reduce waste of energy and production of greenhouse gasses that
3 result from this wasted energy use (New HOD Policy); and be it further
4
5 RESOLVED, That our AMA support light pollution reduction efforts and glare reduction efforts at
6 both the national and state levels (New HOD Policy); and be it further
7
8 RESOLVED, That our AMA support efforts to ensure all future streetlights be of a fully shielded
9 design or similar non-glare design to improve the safety of our roadways for all, but especially
10 vision impaired and older drivers. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Staff cost estimated at less than \$500 to implement.

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