

WASHINGTON STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: C-9
(A-21)

Subject: Support Providers Practicing Medicine

Introduced by: Katina Rue, DO, Delegate
Dave Krueger, MD, Delegate
Board of Trustees

Referred to: Reference Committee C

1 WHEREAS, Washington’s Professional Service Corporation Act (RCW ch 18.100 PSCA) and
2 the WA State Supreme Court 2010 ruling on the Benton Franklin Physical Therapy-Orthopedics
3 group suit finds that licensed health care professionals, and not business entities, are allowed to
4 “practice medicine”; and

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6 WHEREAS, unlicensed corporate entities sometimes restrict or override physicians’ clinically
7 necessary/standard of care patient orders; and

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9 WHEREAS, a prior WSMA resolution passed that asked health insurers in Washington to have
10 adequate prescription formularies for treatment of critical patient problems (written by
11 nephrologist Hamilton Licht, MD, after his prescription for oral prednisone for his renal
12 transplant patient was denied, with no substitution available). Every replying health insurance
13 company uniformly rebuked our entreaty as unworkable for them. At that time, no major public
14 efforts were made to overcome the insurers’ resistance to make their drug formularies adequate
15 for such clinical situations; and

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17 WHEREAS, the Bellingham Emergency physician Ming Lin, MD, was relieved of his job
18 shortly after he publicly expressed his concern for his staff not having adequate COVID-19
19 protection gear; and

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21 WHEREAS, the United States Veterans’ Administration had a record for concealing numerous
22 instances of chronic substandard patient care (including deaths during treatment delays) with a
23 subsequent consequence that the VA now has much stronger whistleblower protections for its
24 staff and providers; and

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26 WHEREAS, Washington State Senator Patty Murray’s (Chair of the U.S. Senate Health
27 Committee) staff advised that WA hospitals would improve patient care accountability by
28 following the VA’s lead and conduct regular anonymous surveys of each institution’s staff and
29 providers on such issues as job conditions, patient care issues, job satisfaction, etc., and make it
30 publicly available; THEREFORE BE IT

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32 RESOLVED, that WSMA support a regular anonymous survey of Washington physicians and
33 physician assistants on issues including, but not limited to, job conditions, quality of patient
34 care, job satisfaction, interference with “standard of care” practice of medicine by unlicensed
35 individuals or entities, and whether not-for-cause employment terminations (or the threat
36 thereof) are witnessed, and survey results will be publicly available (New HOD policy); and
37 BE IT FURTHER

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39 RESOLVED, that in order to maximize diversity of feedback, and minimize potential
40 recrimination and/or retaliation, voting by the WSMA House of Delegates on this resolution
41 should only be done by each delegate in an anonymous manner whether by electronic method

