

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 220
(I-16)

Introduced by: Georgia
Subject: Distracted Driver Reduction
Referred to: Reference Committee B
(Ann R. Stroink, MD, Chair)

- 1 Whereas, A higher percentage of U.S. drivers text or use hand-held cell phones while driving
2 compared to drivers in European countries; and
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4 Whereas, Road fatalities, which had been dropping in the past years, are up roughly eight
5 percent in 2015 over the previous year; and
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7 Whereas, One-fourth of all traffic accidents are associated with cell phone use; and
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9 Whereas, Eight deaths and 1,161 injuries are reported to involve a distracted driver each day in
10 the U.S. per CDC estimates (i.e., a distracted driver is one driving while doing another activity
11 that tends to take the driver's attention away from driving); and
12
13 Whereas, Fourteen states and the District of Columbia have laws in place banning hand-held
14 cell phone use and texting; therefore be it
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16 RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association develop model state legislation to limit cell
17 phone use to hands-free use only while driving. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 10/20/16

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

The Dangers of Distraction While Operating Hand-Held Devices H-15.952

1. Our American Medical Association encourages physicians to educate their patients regarding the public health risks of text messaging while operating motor vehicles or machinery and will advocate for state legislation prohibiting the use of hand held communication devices to text message while operating motor vehicles or machinery.
 2. Our AMA will endorse legislation that would ban the use of hand-held devices while driving.
 3. Our AMA: (A) recognizes distracted walking as a preventable hazard and encourages awareness of the hazard by physicians and the public; and (B) encourages research into the severity of distracted walking as a public health hazard as well as ways in which to prevent it.
 4. Our AMA supports public education efforts regarding the dangers of distracted driving, particularly activities that take drivers' eyes off the road, and that the use of earbuds or headphones while driving is dangerous and illegal in some states.
 5. Our AMA: (A) supports education on the use of earbuds or headphones in both ears during outdoor activities requiring auditory attention, including but not limited to biking, jogging, rollerblading, skateboarding and walking; and (B) supports the use of warning labels on the packaging of hand-held devices utilized with earbuds or headphones, indicating the dangers of using earbuds or headphones in both ears during outdoor activities requiring auditory attention, including but not limited to biking, jogging, rollerblading, skateboarding and walking.
- Res. 217, I-08 Appended: Res. 905, I-09 Appended: BOT Rep. 10, A-13 Appended: Res. 416, A-13 Modified in lieu of Res. 414, A-15