

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 6-17

INTRODUCED BY: Public Health Committee

SUBJECT: Free Speech Applies to Scientific Knowledge

1 Whereas, The mission of the Maryland State Medical Society is to “serve as Maryland’s foremost advocate
2 and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health;” and

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4 Whereas, The definition of science is “The intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic
5 study of the structure and behaviour of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment”;¹
6 and

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8 Whereas, Science has is and continues to be critical in advancing our knowledge in such areas such as
9 medications, vaccines, and climate change and can save lives;²⁻⁴ and

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11 Whereas, The First Amendment of the US is “Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech, or
12 of the press”;⁵ and

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14 Whereas, Scientific integrity policies are in place at multiple scientific agencies which were initially put in
15 place via a presidential memorandum instituted in 2009 that states “Political officials should not suppress or
16 alter scientific or technological findings and conclusions” and “If scientific and technological information is
17 developed and used by the Federal Government, it should ordinarily be made available to the public”;⁶ and

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19 Whereas, Currently there are no legal consequences for violating these scientific integrity policies;⁷ and

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21 Whereas, Recent policy changes suggest that disseminating scientific knowledge to the public may be
22 impeded⁸ which could have important public, policy, and ethical ramifications;⁹⁻¹⁰ therefore, be it

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24 Resolved, that the Maryland State Medical Society urge the American Medical Association to work
25 with members of the US Congress and the Trump Administration to assure that scientific knowledge, data, and
26 research will continue to be protected and freely disseminated in accordance with the US First Amendment;
27 and be it further

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29 Resolved, that the Maryland State Medical Society urge the American Medical Association and the Maryland
30 Congressional delegation to pursue all legal means to oppose and nullify any federal policies, orders, laws,
31 or directives that alter or prevent the free dissemination of scientific and technological information and
32 research that is by right and law the property of the American people and to institute legal consequences for
33 violating scientific integrity policies.

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36 As adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on April 30, 2017.