

MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 10-18

INTRODUCED BY: Baltimore County Medical Association
MedChi Committee on Scientific Activity
MedChi Public Health Committee

SUBJECT: The Inclusion of Questions on Eating Disorders in National and State Youth
Risk Assessment Tools

Whereas, more than 30 million Americans experience eating disorders in their lifetime; and

Whereas, eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any mental health illness; and

Whereas, eating disorders intersect in complex ways with increased risk for suicide, substance abuse, depression, obesity and a long list of potential short and long-term medical complications; and

Whereas, these illnesses often emerge in youth and recovery is more likely with early intervention; and

Whereas, the development of treatment strategies and large scale counter measures requires real data on the extent of the problem; and

Whereas, the collection of current, accurate data on eating disorders is essential for effective treatment development; and

Whereas, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) no longer includes questions regarding eating disorders on the nationwide Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS); and

Whereas, without monitoring data, it is extremely difficult to move past persistent stereotypes to allocate services to the communities and individuals who most need it; and

Whereas, the Strategic Training Initiative for the Prevention of Eating Disorders, the National Eating Disorder Association, The Eating Disorders Coalition, and The Center for Eating Disorders at Sheppard Pratt strongly advocate for the reinstatement of the eating disorder questions into the YRBSS; therefore be it

Resolved, that MedChi's American Medical Association (AMA) Delegation ask our AMA to advocate that the CDC reinstate the eating disorder questions into the YRBSS, as recommended; and be it further

Resolved, that MedChi advocate that the Maryland Department of Health include eating disorder questions in any current or future statewide survey of Youth Risk Behavior, as recommended.

As adopted by the House of Delegate at its meeting on April 29, 2018.