INTRODUCED BY: Baltimore City Medical Society

SUBJECT: Care of the Dying Patient

Whereas, physician assisted suicide and euthanasia are traditionally inconsistent with the physician’s role of curing when possible, and caring always; and

Whereas, the American Medical Association has continued to affirm the caring of the dying patient with all necessary pain relief and nursing care available, without purposely using means to terminate life; and

Whereas the American College of Physicians and the American Nurses Association also oppose physician assisted suicide and euthanasia; and

Whereas, patients fearing increasing pain, can be alleviated by stressing to the patient and family, advanced technology for treating pain and suffering, that currently exists; and

Whereas, utilization of palliative care medicine, can meet the physical, psychological and spiritual needs of such suffering patients; and

Whereas, the use of hospice care can add to the security of patient care along with family concerns when facing terminal care; therefore be it

Resolved, that MedChi continue to support and educate physicians in their caring role of the dying patient using current advanced technology, pain management, palliative and hospice care.

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