MEDCHI, THE MARYLAND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution 17-15

INTRODUCED BY: Public Health Committee
Maternal and Child Health Subcommittee

SUBJECT: Promotion of HPV Vaccination and Prevention of HPV Related Cancers in Residents of Maryland

Whereas, human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is ubiquitous in the population, asymptomatic, and is known to be the cause of cervical, vulvar/vaginal, anal, penile and oropharyngeal cancer and genital warts; and

Whereas, the cost for treatment of 12,000 new cervical cancers per year in the United States is estimated at 8 billion dollars, with 4,000 deaths; and

Whereas, studies have found that 60 – 80% of oropharyngeal cancers are HPV positive and the President’s Cancer Panel has called attention to a rising incidence of oropharyngeal cancers, four times greater in men than women, and projected that the number of oropharyngeal cancers will exceed those of cervical cancer by the year 2020; and

Whereas, current treatment modalities for HPV cervical infection and for cancer result in long term adverse reproductive consequences; and

Whereas, HPV vaccines currently in use (2 or 4 valent) cover the two strains of HPV known to cause 75% of cervical cancer and most oropharyngeal cancers and a new 9 valent vaccine has been found to prevent 97% of cervical cancers; and

Whereas, immunization is not effective in treating or preventing cancers once an individual is infected; therefore be it

Resolved, that MedChi strongly requests the Secretary of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to declare the prevention of HPV-related cancers a major public health priority for Maryland; and be it further

Resolved, that MedChi requests that the Secretary institute a statewide campaign to immunize all children against HPV at the CDC recommended ages, addressing known barriers to that goal – costs of vaccine, parental consent requirement, and inadequate venues for reaching all children; and be it further

Resolved, that MedChi encourage the endorsement of universal childhood HPV immunization by component and specialty societies, stressing the benefits of prevention of the adulthood consequences of cervical, vulvar/vaginal, anal, penile, and oropharyngeal cancer.

As adopted by the House of Delegates at its meeting on September 19, 2015.