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**NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

Number: 14-102

RESOLUTION

SUBJECT: Climate Change and Health

INTRODUCED BY: Environmental Health Task Force

ADOPTED: August 6, 2014

WHEREAS, 88 percent of NMA physicians reported seeing patients who have health conditions caused or exacerbated by climate change in a June, 2014 Report "Climate Change and Health: A Survey of African American Physicians"

WHEREAS, the health problems reported by these NMA physicians are injuries due to severe weather (88% of respondents), air pollution related increases in severity of chronic disease (87%), increased allergic symptoms (80%), and heat related effects (75%), vector-borne infections (Lyme Disease, West Nile Virus) (58%), diarrhea from food/waterborne agents of infection (56%), and mental health problems related to these health issues (40%)

WHEREAS, human manufactured greenhouse gases, especially carbon dioxide, are the primary cause of climate change

WHEREAS, reduction in the use of fossil fuels can go a long way in addressing this problem

WHEREAS, the availability and cost of solar and wind power is dropping dramatically and is predicted to rival that of fossil fuels in many states within the next five years

WHEREAS, energy conservation reduces greenhouse gases and saves money

WHEREAS, energy conservation can be as simple as changing to energy efficient light bulbs, unplugging electrical devices when not in use, cleaning Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) systems, and caulking windows; or can be more intensive such as sensor activated lights and thermostats, installation of thermal pane or solar cell windows, buying energy efficient equipment and appliances, and more

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that National Medical Association recognize climate change as a significant threat to health, life, and the survival of the human species

RESOLVED, that NMA advocate for policies and actions to adapt to current and mitigate future climate change and the resultant health effects

RESOLVED, that NMA educate its members on the health effects of climate change and promote that members "lead by example" by increasing use of sustainable energy and energy conservation in their homes, offices, clinics, hospitals and other healthcare facilities

RESOLVED, that NMA educate their patients, policymakers, and the public about the health effects of climate change and the importance of climate mitigation and adaptation to the coming health threats of climate change

FISCAL IMPACT: The Environmental Health Task Force or its successor shall be charged with raising sufficient funds to implement this resolution