

## **RESOLUTION 22-023 ACKNOWLEDGING RACIAL AND ETHNIC HEALTH DISPARITIES IN MASS INCARCERATION**

Introduced By: Lucy Brown, MSS;  
Sydney Clark, MPH, MSS;  
Rebecca Nunge, MSS;  
Trilliah Fazle, MSS;  
Siena Cooper, MSS;  
Peyton Robinson, MSS;  
and Roberto Darroca, M.D.

Referred To: Reference Committee 2

Whereas, the United States incarcerates more people per capita than any country in the world, where the U.S. comprises only 4% of the world's population, yet is home to nearly 16% of all incarcerated people in the world; and

Whereas, in Indiana, the total jail population increased by 526% between 1970 and 2015, while rates of pretrial detainees have increased by 72% in the state's 48 rural counties, 43% in the state's 21 small/medium counties, 40% in the state's 22 suburban counties, and 268% in Marion County alone since 2000; and

Whereas, in 2015 in Indiana, when including jail, prison, immigration detention, and juvenile facilities, the incarceration rate was 765 per 100,000 people, well above the rate of the United States as a whole, which was 665 per 100,000 people; and

Whereas, Black residents make up 10% of Indiana's population, but represent 24% of people in jail and 34% of people in prison; additionally, pretrial populations, disproportionately Black and Hispanic, more than doubled from 2002 to 2017; and

Whereas, in 2019, Native people made up 2.1% of all federally incarcerated people, larger than their share of the total U.S. population, which was less than one percent; additionally, Native women are particularly overrepresented in the incarcerated population, making up 2.5% of women in prisons and jails and only 0.7% of the total U.S. female population; and

Whereas, populations of color are more impacted by the use of money bail, where Black defendants often receive higher bail amounts, even when controlling for legal factors such as offense severity; and

Whereas, Black and brown defendants are 10-25% more likely to be detained pretrial or to receive financial conditions of release; and

Whereas, significant racial and ethnic disparities exist among policing, arrests, and incarceration rates, which further exacerbate disparate health outcomes for Black communities, including, but not limited to, Black individuals disproportionately being stopped by the police, experiencing use of force and repeated arrests, serving sentences of life and life without parole, being sent to solitary confinement, and receiving convictions that place them on death row; and

Whereas, nearly one in three Black men will ever be imprisoned, and nearly half of Black women currently have a family member or extended family member who is in prison; and

Whereas, ISMA (RESOLUTION 15-31) advocates for improved health care of incarcerated individuals; however, ISMA has no policy acknowledging the inequitable burden of incarceration and policing on minoritized individuals and communities of color; and

Whereas, the AMA (H-65.954) recognizes police brutality as a manifestation of structural racism which disproportionately impacts Black, Indigenous, and other people of color; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that ISMA recognize that unjust and disproportionate racial and ethnic disparities exist in policing, sentencing, and mass incarceration among Black, indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) and have devastating impacts on BIPOC communities; and be it further,

RESOLVED, that ISMA refer to the Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for study on what policies would be germane for ISMA to act on regarding racial and ethnic disparities in mass incarceration.

### **Summary of Comments received during comment period**

Amend 2  
Not Adopt: 5  
Refer to Board: 1  
No Opinion (or Neutral): 0



33 2 5 1 0

**Comments:**

- Gabriel T. Bosslet, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 7/2/2022
- Haley A. Pritchard, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 7/6/2022
- Tashera E. Perry, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 7/7/2022
- Brian W. Cook, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 7/7/2022
- David R. Diaz, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 7/7/2022
- Alison Case, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 7/13/2022
- Brianna I. Harvey** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 7/13/2022
- Bree A. Weaver, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 7/14/2022
- Eli G. Schantz** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 7/14/2022
- Cynthia Heckman-Davis, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 7/17/2022
- Joseph Ballard** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 7/28/2022
- Caryn C. Anderson, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 7/28/2022
- Dan Pfeifle, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 7/30/2022
- Caprice D. Gilpin, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/3/2022
- Thomas A. Barley, MD** commented **Not Adopt** on 8/3/2022

An old saying is if you do the crime you do the time. This makes much more sense than anything discussed particularly in the multiple whereas. Changing the ending does not fix the beginning. Excellent childhood education is the key to fighting crime.

✓ **Mary Ian McAteer, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/3/2022

✓ **Alissa Haas** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/4/2022

✓ **Erica L. Swanson, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/5/2022

✓ **Donald J. Giant, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/5/2022

✓ **Alexandria Carter** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/7/2022

✓ **Lucy D. Brown** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/7/2022

✓ **Rebecca Nunge** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/7/2022

✓ **Andrea Patterson, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/7/2022

✎ **J Elizabeth Struble, MD** commented **Amend** on 8/7/2022

I am in favor of the first resolve clause.

The second is not really the goal of having the ISMA DEI committee. The goal of this committee is to help the ISMA improve our ability to be inclusive, advocate for all members, and to address issues that come up within our scope. This resolve clause is way beyond our scope.

✓ **Oliva K. Murray** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/8/2022

✓ **Kelsey A. Kinney** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/9/2022

✓ **Sarah E. Hopfer** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/10/2022

✓ **Brianna M. Serbus, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/11/2022

✓ **Natalie M. Cox** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/11/2022


✗ **Rhonda L. Sharp, MD** commented **Not Adopt** on 8/11/2022

✓ **Cynthia L. Vanderbosch, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/12/2022


✓ **Kerri A. Kissell, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/13/2022

✗ **Sara A. Brown, MD** commented **Not Adopt** on 8/13/2022

I fully support advocating for improved healthcare for these individuals. I fail to see how a medical organization should be involved in solving issues related to policing, sentencing, and mass incarceration. I believe this is out of our scope as a state medical society.

 **Lisa A. Hatcher, MD** commented **Not Adopt** on 8/13/2022

Agree with Dr. Sara Brown


 **Syed A. Ali, MD** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/13/2022

 **Bernard J. Emkes, MD** commented **Refer to Board** on 8/13/2022


Do not agree with the first resolved. The second is fine.


Incarceration should not be determined by skin color, but rather by the crimes committed.


Fair and equitable incarceration is critical (proportional to crime, criminal record and danger to society), as well as fair and equal application of our existing laws. Neither is currently happening in our country. Sad to see - whichever way it leans.

 **Tyler E. Heavin, MD** commented **Not Adopt** on 8/14/2022


I think there are other better suited avenues to advocate for this and it extends beyond what the ISMA should be focusing on. We have a limited amount of political capital and there are other issues within our purview where we can speak from a position of authority and can have a larger impact that would benefit this underserved population i.e. public health measures, insurance, increased GME funding, etc. I don't think the state medical association should be advocating for changes to the justice system. While there are healthcare ramifications, I think it is loosely tied to healthcare at best.

 **Peyton Z. Robinson** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/14/2022

 **Asael Nunez** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/14/2022

 **William W. Pond, MD** commented **Amend** on 8/14/2022

To add a note of positivity to the resolution, the ISMA should also recognize the value of completing a high school education, avoidance of gang activity and illegal drug use, full time employment of any type, positive role models, a 2 parent family, participation in salutary community organizations such as church, Scouts, 4-H, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, sports, etc.; in short, developing those personal qualities which make any person a productive member of society.

 **Sydney Q. Clark** commented **Adopt (as is)** on 8/14/2022