

1 **DRAFT**
2 **Maine Medical Association**
3 **Resolution # RE: A Call For Permanent On-going Support**
4 **for Public Health Work in Maine and Nationally**
5
6 **Submitted by the MMA Public Health Committee**
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8 **WHEREAS**, established MMA policy specifically mentions the importance of public
9 health to the well-being and safety of Maine people as one of its four “core values” in its
10 health statement of 2017 — “the health of populations”; and
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12 **WHEREAS**, it is widely acknowledged that chronic federal and state underfunding of
13 public health is one of the reasons for the lack of preparedness for Covid-19 as well as its
14 spread; and
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16 **WHEREAS**, health care spending in the United States tops 3.5 trillion dollars every year
17 despite the fact that significant numbers of people have no access or poor access, and
18 according to a 2017 report from the Trust for America’s Health, public health funding
19 represents just 2.5% of that figure; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, insufficient support for public health has not only left our state and nation
22 vulnerable to an infectious disease pandemic, but has also resulted in the neglect of all
23 public health services, including a failure to control other epidemics such as opioid
24 addiction, vaping, obesity, firearm trauma; and
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26 **WHEREAS**, a strong, well-funded public health system is needed to develop and
27 maintain high quality surveillance data to determine the on-going status of the public’s
28 health as well as the response to various interventions aimed at improving health;
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30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Maine Medical Association and**
31 **physician community strongly and urgently recommend a full commitment at the**
32 **national and state levels to assure on-going financial support for public health;**
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34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Maine Medical Association prioritize those**
35 **health care coverage options that provide strong financial support for on-going**
36 **policies specifically designed for public health;**
37

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Maine Medical Association collaborate**
39 **with the efforts of the American Public Health Association, the Maine Public Health**
40 **Association and other public health organizations to assure solid, on-going support**
41 **for public health;**
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43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Maine Medical Association will advocate**
44 **for strong financial and policy support for public health by our elected**
45 **representatives at both the state and federal levels;**
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47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Maine Medical Association will send a copy**
48 **of this resolution to members of Maine’s Congressional delegation and State of**
49 **Maine leadership.**
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