

MSMA HOUSE OF DELEGATES 2017 Resolution #5

Introduced by: Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians, South Central Medical Society

Subject: *Imposing Taxes on Sugar-sweetened beverages*

WHEREAS, our American Medical Association (AMA) encourages its state and local societies to support the adoption of state and local excise taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs) with the investment of the revenue to go to public health efforts, especially those associated with obesity; and

WHEREAS, the Mississippi Department of Health has suffered historic cuts in its funding which have resulted in significant decreases in services offered and reorganization of the entire department; and

WHEREAS, taxation of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB) has become an increasingly popular proposal to help reduce the prevalence of obesity and related conditions in the United States, with academic research into the negative relationships between SSBs and obesity and related health outcomes, as well as the positive potential health impact of SSB taxes; and

WHEREAS, supporters of SSB taxes cite the success of tobacco and alcohol taxes in reducing rates of smoking and alcohol consumption, particularly in concert with other public health measures such as smoking bans, educational campaigns, and tougher alcohol-impaired driving laws; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the MSMA support the adoption of a state tax on sugar-sweetened beverages, with the resulting revenue earmarked to go to the Mississippi Department of Health for prevention and treatment of obesity in the state as well as efforts to improve the attendant risks and impact of chronic diseases associated with obesity.