

Resolution Number: 401-2026

Title: Disaster Relief

Reference Committee Assignment: Professional Issues

Sponsor(s): 2025-26 Council on Advocacy

Financial Impact: None

Board of Trustees Comments: The Board recommends a yes vote.

Board Vote: Unanimous

Summary of Board Vote: Nothing to report as the vote was unanimous.

Reference Committee Comments:

Background: The Council on Advocacy was tasked by the 2025 House of Delegates with investigating policies related to extreme weather events and displacement caused by climate change and as they affect access to oral health care.

The Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters reported that 93.1 million people were affected by natural disasters in 2023. Practicing proper dental hygiene can be challenging in the wake of natural and man-made emergencies. Dentists' ability to operate, the destruction of transportation infrastructure, and water contamination all pose threats to public oral health; therefore, be it

RESOLUTION

Resolved, that ASDA adopt a policy on Disaster Relief as follows:

ASDA encourages governmental and private sector support for oral health resources and services in natural and human disaster planning and relief efforts.

ASDA urges these entities to dedicate resources towards alleviating the short- and long-term burdens of displacement that disrupt public oral health systems and routines.