

1 **Resolution Number:** 309-2021

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3 **Title:** Children’s Care policy

4

5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** Professional Issues and Licensure

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7 **Sponsor(s):**

8 Michael J. Rosales, Roseman University (RU) C/O 2022

9 Olivia Kalloo, RU ASDA Legislative Liaison, RU National Student Research Group President

10 Jonathan Wong, RU ASDA President

11 Priscilla Leung, RU ASDA Vice-President

12 Richelle Castro, RU ASDA Pre-Dental Chair

13 Danny Huynh, RU C/O 2021

14 Hazel Williamson, RU C/O 2022

15 Joshua Kabins, RU C/O 2022

16 Jennie Oh, RU C/O 2022

17 Kaylee Young, RU C/O 2022

18 Ayrton Sanguino, Council on Communications, Video Production Manager

19 Spencer Judd, RU Pediatric Club Board Member

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21 **Financial Impact:** None

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23 **Board of Trustees Comments:** None

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25 **Reference Committee Comments:** The Reference Committee discussed all policies ASDA
26 currently has addressing vulnerable populations such as people with special needs and
27 veterans. Before adding an additional population, such as children, in a separate policy, the
28 Governance Committee should review all policies and determine if a policy covering all
29 vulnerable populations is appropriate. Therefore the Reference Committee recommends a
30 referral of 309-2021 to the 2021-2022 Governance Committee to study the feasibility of
31 creating one policy that addresses all vulnerable populations and report back at the 2022 House
32 of Delegates.

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34 **Background:**

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36 **I. Introduction**

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38 Children are often faced with adversity through no fault of their own. They cannot control their
39 socioeconomic class or their genetics. Children do not have the ability to overcome adversity
40 alone. Therefore, where a society exists that is capable of assisting children who, through no
41 fault of their own, are facing adversity – adequate aid should be available to assist them.

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43 “Children aged 2 to 9 living in poverty are twice as likely to suffer tooth decay than their more
44 affluent peers; in addition, their disease is more than twice as likely to go untreated.” In
45 addition, “the rate of tooth decay is five times more common among children below the
46 poverty line (30 percent) than children in families 300 percent or more above the poverty line

47 (six percent).”¹ The result of these untreated caries is a negative impact to their health,
48 intellectual development, and social development such as:

49

50 Life-threatening infection;
51 Significant pain;
52 Chewing difficulty (due mostly to pain) leading to malnutrition and
53 gastrointestinal disorders that can result in a failure to thrive or delayed
54 or insufficient growth; and
55 Poor speech articulation; poor sleep habits; low self-esteem, social
56 ostracism and poor school performance that leads to a diminished overall
57 quality of life.²

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59 **II. Discussion**

60 **a. ASDA currently supports legislation in support of children.**

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62 The American Student Dental Association currently supports legislation that directly impacts
63 children such as the Ensuring Lasting Smiles Act. ASDA also supports student involvement
64 encouraging “chapter involvement in projects like Give Kids a Smile and Missions of Mercy.”³

65 Therefore, this resolution is in line with ASDA’s current stance on supporting access to care for
66 children.

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68 **b. ASDA has current policy supporting specific vulnerable populations.**

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70 Resolutions establishing an official stance for support of specific populations are currently in
71 existence and this Resolution is in line with those existing Policies. In 2004, H-6 was passed
72 establishing ASDA’s support for special needs populations.⁴ In 2019, H-8 was passed
73 establishing ASDA’s support for military veterans.⁵ Therefore, ASDA has established a history of
74 support for individual vulnerable populations.

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76 **c. ASDA’s E-8 Code of Ethics supports advocating for children experiencing 77 financial hardship.**

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¹ American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, *The State of Little Teeth*, 2014, at 7,
https://www.aapd.org/assets/1/7/State_of_Little_Teeth_Final.pdf (last visited Feb. 18, 2021).

² *Id.* at 4.

³ American Student Dental Association, *Barriers to Care*, <https://www.asdanet.org/index/get-involved/advocate/issues-and-legislative-priorities/Barriers-to-Care> (last visited Feb. 18, 2021).

⁴ American Student Dental Association, Health Care Delivery, *H-6 Special Needs Dentistry (2004)*,
<https://www.asdanet.org/about-asda/leaders-and-governance/current-statements-of-position-or-policy/health-care-delivery/H6> (last visited Feb. 18, 2021).

⁵ American Student Dental Association, Health Care Delivery, *H-8 Veterans Care (2019)*,
[https://www.asdanet.org/about-asda/leaders-and-governance/current-statements-of-position-or-policy/health-care-delivery/h-8-veterans-care-\(2019\)](https://www.asdanet.org/about-asda/leaders-and-governance/current-statements-of-position-or-policy/health-care-delivery/h-8-veterans-care-(2019)) (last visited Feb. 18, 2021).

79 ASDA has also established policy under “E-8 ASDA Student Code of Ethics.” Pursuant to §IV(B):
80 “Students should advocate access to care for patients who are unable to receive care due to
81 physical or mental disability or financial hardship.”⁶

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83 Children are not financially independent. They need the help of their parents, their community,
84 and their health care professionals. They cannot speak for themselves in a meaningful way on a
85 State, National, or Global level. Therefore, advocating for children is our responsibility under
86 ASDA’s E-8 Student Code of Ethics.

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88 **III. Conclusion**

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90 Ultimately, where ASDA has: 1) established policy in support of other particularly vulnerable
91 populations in the past; 2) has encouraged legislative support for children to receive increased
92 access to care; 3) where children are in need and are unable to secure that need for themselves
93 and 4) it is our responsibility under E-8 – a proposed resolution establishing ASDA’s support for
94 children is in line with our organization’s policy trends and goals. Therefore, be it

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96

RESOLUTION

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98 **Resolved,** that the American Student Dental Association support appropriate initiatives and
99 legislation to improve and foster the oral health of children. The Association encourage
100 constituent and component dental societies to support state and local initiatives and legislation
101 to improve the oral health of children. The American Student Dental Association encourage
102 dental and allied dental programs to educate students about the oral health needs and issues
103 of children.

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105 **Action:** The Chair moves 309-2021 with a recommendation to refer to the 2021-22 Governance
106 Committee to study the feasibility of creating one policy that addresses all vulnerable
107 populations and report back at the 2022 House of Delegates.

⁶American Student Dental Association, Dental School Administrative Policies and Student Government, *E-8 ASDA Student Code of Ethics (2002, revised in 2008, 2010, 2020)*, <https://www.asdanet.org/about-asda/leaders-and-governance/current-statements-of-position-or-policy/dental-school-administrative-policies-and-student-government/E-8> (last visited Feb. 18, 2021).