

Resolution Template

1 **Resolution Number:** 207-2024

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3 **Title:** Prohibition of Concurrent Opinion Submission on Resolutions

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5 **Reference Committee Assignment:** *Membership*

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7 **Sponsor(s):** Sina Shahrood, MWU - AZ

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9 **Financial Impact:** None

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11 **Board of Trustees Comments:** Received after the deadline for Board comment.

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13 **Reference Committee Comments:** The purpose of the advance comments is to provide
14 guidance for delegates. The Board of Trustees holds meetings and drafts comments based on
15 historical context, expertise, and consultation with experts – all in an effort to make the
16 business of the House of Delegates more efficient and to uphold the best interests of the
17 association. Whether it is part of the resolution or shared during the hearing, the comments
18 would remain the same. Not including them on the resolution would take longer for all the
19 testimony to get shared.

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21 As defined by the American Institute of Parliamentarians, which is ASDA's parliamentary
22 authority, the primary duty of a reference committee is to receive and evaluate opinions and
23 information so that it may present a well-informed recommendation to the House of Delegates.
24 This can be done best by evaluating all resolutions referred to the committee, by basing
25 recommendations on the best information and advice available, and by making decisions in the
26 best interest of the public, the association, and the dental profession.

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28 The Reference Committee comments are meant to guide the House of Delegates and takes into
29 account all of the information that gets shared. The Reference Committee does not provide
30 personal recommendations, but rather synthesizes the testimony from the House. Therefore,
31 the Reference Committee recommends a no vote.

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33 **Background:**

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35 Whereas, the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) encourages members to submit
36 resolutions to the reference committee for feedback and review prior to presentation at annual
37 sessions;

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39 Whereas, it has become common practice for the reference committee to include their
40 recommendation for a "yes" or "no" vote on resolutions within the resolution text, alongside
41 their comments;

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43 Whereas, this practice unfairly influences the audience's perception of the resolution and
44 potentially sways votes before open debate and discussion;

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46 Whereas, allowing ASDA entities, such as the reference committee or Board of Trustees, to
47 provide their opinion on a resolution within the same document undermines the democratic
48 process of debating and deciding on resolutions at annual sessions;

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50 Whereas, while the Board of Trustees may offer valuable insights, their opinions can be
51 adequately discussed and considered during the debate of the resolution at the annual session;
52 Therefore be it

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54

RESOLUTION

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56 **Resolved**, that the American Student Dental Association hereby prohibits the practice of
57 including opinions or recommendations from ASDA entities within the resolution text, whether
58 it be the reference committee, Board of Trustees, or any other ASDA entity, in order to ensure
59 fair and unbiased consideration of resolutions during annual sessions.

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61 Further resolved, that all resolutions presented at ASDA annual sessions shall stand on their
62 own merit and be subject to open debate and discussion by delegates without the influence of
63 pre-determined opinions or recommendations from ASDA entities.

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65 Further resolved, that the Board of Trustees shall uphold and enforce this prohibition and
66 encourage robust discussion and debate of resolutions during annual sessions, ensuring that all
67 voices and perspectives are heard and considered equally.

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69 Further resolved, that Section 6B of the standing rules of the House of Delegates is hereby
70 amended to include the following provision: "No recommendation or opinion regarding the way
71 a vote should go shall be made in conjunction with the review, posting, or distribution of
72 resolutions by the Board of Trustees, reference committees, or any other ASDA entity.

73 Resolutions shall be presented and considered solely based on their content and merit during
74 Annual Session proceedings."

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76 **Action:** The Chair moves resolution 207-2024 with a recommendation of a no vote.