

WASHINGTON STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution \*\*\*

Subject: The Shortage of Mental Health Providers and Ancillary Mental Health Workers

Sponsored by: Northwest Medical Society

TBD

Referred to Reference Committee\*\*\*

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*Whereas:* There has been a long-term increase in behavioral, mental health and substance abuse in all age groups; AND

*Whereas:* There has been a significant increase in the prevalence of those problems in all age groups during the pandemic; AND

*Whereas:* There has not been a corresponding increase in the number of providers of behavioral, mental health and substance abuse providing services for many years; AND

*Whereas:* The disparity between the demand for treatment services and the available providers is growing greater; AND

*Whereas:* The disparity is greatest for publicly-funded services, especially in less urban areas; AND

*Whereas:* Access to appropriate behavioral, mental health and substance abuse treatment and supportive services is reaching crisis proportions;

*Be It Resolved:* That the Washington State Medical Association support improved reimbursement for behavioral, mental health and substance abuse treatment and directly reimbursed treatment support services; AND

*Be It Further Resolved:* That the Washington State Medical Association support additional funding for training case managers, Masters-level counselors, psychologists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, psychiatrists and child and adolescent psychiatrists.

