

SUBJECT: Health Effects of Climate Change

SUBMITTED BY: Nicole Rye, OMS-IV, Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Medicine (MAOFP)

REFERRED TO: 2019 ACOFP Congress of Delegates

RESOLUTION NO. 17

- 1 WHEREAS, international studies have identified several health-related consequences of climate
2 change including heatwaves, storms, fires, droughts, floods, agriculture loss and changing
3 patterns of disease leading to increase in undernutrition, cardiovascular disease,
4 respiratory disease, vector-borne disease¹; and
- 5 WHEREAS, the World Health Organization 2014 assessment estimated an additional 250,000
6 potential annual deaths between 2030 and 2050 impacts of climate change including
7 38,000 to heat exposure in the elderly, 48,000 to diarrhea, 60,000 to malaria, and 95,000
8 to childhood undernutrition²; and
- 9 WHEREAS, the United States Surgeon General is responsible for publishing reports regarding
10 important public health issues such as but no limited to tobacco use, suicide prevention
11 and opioid addiction; now, therefore be it
- 12 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) support that
13 climate change poses a threat to public health; and, be it further
- 14 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP encourage a publication from the United States Surgeon General
15 reporting the health-related consequences of climate change.

References:

- 1-Watts, Nick, et al. "Health and Climate Change: Policy Responses to Protect Public Health." *The Lancet* 386.10006 (2015): 1861-914. *ProQuest*. Web. 30 Jan. 2019.
- 2-Hales S, Kovats S, Lloyd S, Campbell-Lendrum D. Quantitative risk assessment of the effects of climate change on selected causes of death, 2030s and 2050s. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2014.

FINAL ACTION: REFERRED BACK TO AUTHOR as of March 21, 2019

Explanatory Statement: Resolution needs further evidence-based research correlating climate change and the effects on public health.