

VMS RESOLUTION
MORATORIUM ON THE DEATH PENALTY

Passed at VMS Annual Meeting, October 26th, 2002

WHEREAS, Numerous and critical errors exist in current practices with capital punishment; and

WHEREAS, The American Association of Public Health Physicians and the American Bar Association recommend a moratorium on the death penalty; and

WHEREAS, the AMA Code of Medical Ethics states: "A physician, as a member of a profession dedicated to preserving life when there is hope of doing so, should not be a participant in a legally authorized execution. The relationship of doctors and their patients represented by physician involvement in capital punishment is inconsistent with the integrity of medicine as a profession; " therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the VMS urges the AMA to actively disseminate its Code of Medical Ethics regarding physician nonparticipation in legally authorized executions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the VMS urges the AMA to support a moratorium on the death penalty.