

**Missouri State Medical Association  
House of Delegates**

Resolution # 16  
(A-24)

Introduced by: Gary Gaddis, MD PhD  
Subject: Emergency Medical Services Vehicles  
Referred to:

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- 1 **WHEREAS**, According to a 2020 study reported in *Health Affairs*, the health care industry produces 4.4  
2 to 4.6% of all of global “greenhouse gas” (GHG) emissions; and,  
3  
4 **WHEREAS**, GHG emissions have contributed to a progressively increased carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) fraction of  
5 the air, and to a progressively increased average temperature of the surface of the Earth (long-term,  
6 non-human-induced cyclical fluctuations of Earth temperatures not due to human-induced GHG  
7 emissions notwithstanding); and,  
8  
9 **WHEREAS**, These elevated temperatures have contributed measurably to increased morbidity and  
10 mortality of outdoor laborers, to increased numbers of extreme weather events, and to other events  
11 adverse for the health of humans and the ecosystems upon which human life depends; and,  
12  
13 **WHEREAS**, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) vehicles are an important contributor to this health care-  
14 related GHG burden from gases such as CO<sub>2</sub>, because almost all EMS vehicles are large, petroleum-  
15 powered vehicles; and,  
16  
17 **WHEREAS**, Electrically-powered vehicles of a similar size to EMS vehicles have recently been recently  
18 placed into service by delivery services such as Amazon and UPS; and,  
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20 **WHEREAS**, Both Amazon and UPS have thus enabled a significant decrease of their fleets’ GHG  
21 emissions; and,  
22  
23 **WHEREAS**, The deployment of these large, electrically-powered delivery vehicles by Amazon and UPS  
24 suggests similar opportunities may exist in urban locales to deploy new electrically-powered EMS  
25 vehicles, as older petroleum-powered vehicles are rotated out of service; and,  
26  
27 **WHEREAS**, the National Health Service of Great Britain is currently studying the idea of deployment of  
28 electrically-powered EMS vehicles in that nation; and,  
29  
30 **WHEREAS**, Available technology currently exists to enable rapid “re-charging” of large EMS vehicles’  
31 batteries in “ambulance bays” of hospitals, upon arrival of those EMS vehicles to hospitals’ ambulance  
32 bays, once hospitals provide such charging stations; and,  
33  
34 **WHEREAS**, Sufficient time to adequately recharge EMS vehicles in emergency department “ambulance  
35 bays” exists, because intervals between patient unloading at the hospital and EMS crew departure from  
36 the hospital typically exceed 15 minutes; and,  
37

38 **WHEREAS**, Hospitals typically own and operate large emergency electrical generators that would make  
39 concerns centered upon consequences of local temporary electrical power outages moot; and,

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41 **WHEREAS**, Time is running short to permit mankind to limit GHGs to a quantity not likely to disrupt life  
42 and ecosystems irreversibly with unforeseeable consequences to humans and their health; therefore, be  
43 it,

44

45 **RESOLVED**, That our Missouri State Medical Association will submit to the House of Delegates (HOD) of  
46 the American Medical Association (AMA), for consideration at the AMA HOD Annual Meeting in Chicago  
47 in June of 2024, a proposed resolution that the AMA’s Council on Science and Public Health be directed  
48 to study the potential feasibility of and GHG impact that could be achieved from transitioning America’s  
49 current urban EMS vehicle fleet from petroleum power to electrical power, as vehicles currently in  
50 service are retired (Directive to Take Action); and be it further,

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52 **RESOLVED**, That our American Medical Association will forward the results of this study by the Council  
53 on Science and Public Health to health care journalists, hospital regulators, EMS system leaders, and  
54 other relevant parties, toward the eventual implementation of the findings and recommendations that  
55 are anticipated to be reached (Directive to Take Action).

**Fiscal Note:** None

**Current Policy:**