

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION WOMEN PHYSICIANS SECTION

Resolution: (Assigned by HOD)
(A-25)

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Subject: Preventing Drug-Facilitated Sexual Assault

Referred to: Reference Committee (Assigned by HOD)

1 Whereas, an estimated 1 in 5 women have experienced sexual assault, with nearly 11 million
2 women having enduring sexual violence while under the influence of drugs or alcohol^{1,2}; and
3

4 Whereas, at least half of all sexual assaults involve alcohol consumed by the perpetrator, the
5 survivor, or both³; and
6

7 Whereas, college students and young adults are highly vulnerable to drug-facilitated sexual
8 assault (DFSA), with over 60% of incidents occurring in social settings like parties, bars, or
9 clubs^{4,5}; and
10

11 Whereas, drugs commonly used by perpetrators of DFSA, such as MDMA, GHB, ketamine,
12 methamphetamine, and Rohypnol, are rapidly metabolized and eliminated from the body,
13 making detection unlikely by the time most survivors report their assault or seek medical care, if
14 they do so at all⁵⁻⁹; and
15

16 Whereas, numerous drug detection technologies have been developed to detect commonly
17 used DFSA substances and are increasingly used by bars, nightclubs, and other establishments
18 to prevent opportunistic DFSA¹⁰⁻¹⁷; and
19

20 Whereas, multiple states have recently enacted or introduced legislation requiring bars,
21 nightclubs, and other establishments to offer “date rape” detection technologies on-site to
22 prevent DFSA^{18,19}; therefore be it
23

24 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association supports federal, state, and local efforts to
25 prevent drug-facilitated sexual assault, including access to drug detection equipment in
26 establishments that sell alcohol and through public education campaigns.

Fiscal Note: Assigned by HOD

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RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Addressing Sexual Assault on College Campuses H-515.956

Our AMA: (1) supports universities' implementation of evidence-driven sexual assault prevention programs that specifically address the needs of college students and the unique challenges of the collegiate setting; (2) will work with relevant stakeholders to address the issues of rape, sexual abuse, and physical abuse on college campuses; and (2) will strongly express our concerns about the problems of rape, sexual abuse, and physical abuse on college campuses.

[Res. 402, A-16 Appended: Res. 424, A-18]