**OHIO STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

**Resolution No. 22 – 2020**

**Introduced by:** OSMA District Four

**Subject:** Improving the Veterans Health Administration Referrals for Veterans for

Care outside the VA System

**Referred to:** Resolutions Committee No. 2

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**WHEREAS**, Scandal at the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding wait times and access to referral for specialty care resulted in reforms permitting expedited referral of VA patients to doctors outside the VA system if prompt care could not be provided within the system; and

**WHEREAS**, A whistleblower-prompted VA internal investigation confirmed that in 2017 alone, for 2538 veterans, doctors outside the VA system were terminating services to the veterans and/or referring them to collection agencies, and impacting their credit profiles, because the VA was not providing the indicated pay for services provided; and

**WHEREAS**, Investigation also determined that the software system for managing travel reimbursement for the veterans referred outside the VA for care is obsolete, resulting in $224 million in improper travel reimbursements in 2017 alone; and

**WHEREAS**, The House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs plans a hearing this spring to address these issues; **therefore be it**

**RESOLVED**, That the Ohio State Medical Association advocate for reform of the Veterans Health Administration to provide timely and complete payment for veterans’ care received outside the VA system and accurate and efficient management of travel reimbursement for that care; and, **be it further**

**RESOLVED**, That the OSMA, by means of the OSMA website, as well as written letters to elected federal legislators and the U.S. President, support actively both reform for the VA to provide timely and complete payment for care provided to veterans outside the VA system and reform for the VA to provide accurate and efficient management of veterans’ travel expenses for that care.

**Fiscal Note:** $ 500 (Sponsor)

$ 1,000 (Staff)