

Resolution to Endorse the *United States Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use*

WHEREAS the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) “supports the use of evidence-based and explicitly stated clinical practice guidelines” that are “developed using rigorous evidence-based methodology,”¹ and

WHEREAS the AAFP “is concerned about the sexual health of adults and believes physicians should provide patient education and counseling to both men and women to decrease the number of unwanted pregnancies”² and

WHEREAS the AAFP asserts that family physicians should be prepared to provide “information about ... the provision of contraceptives for routine pregnancy prevention” and to engage patients in “discussion of all forms of contraception, where to obtain them, and the reliability of each”² and

WHEREAS the World Health Organization (WHO) has, since the mid-1990s, regularly published the *Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use*, which gives evidence-based global guidance on the safety of contraceptive method use for women with specific characteristics and medical conditions³ and

WHEREAS the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently went through a formal adaptation process to create the *United States Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use (USMEC), 2010*, a set of evidence-based recommendations specifically intended for U.S. health care professionals to use when providing family planning counseling and services³ and

WHEREAS the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) has recently endorsed the *USMEC*, and

WHEREAS the AAFP is an important resource for over one hundred thousand family physicians across the country, who rely on the Academy for up-to-date evidence-based practice recommendations, now be it

RESOLVED, that the California AFP request that the AAFP join ACOG in endorsing the *US Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use (USMEC)*, and further be it

RESOLVED, that the CAFP endorses that the *United States Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use (USMEC)* be promoted with an announcement and link on www.aafp.org.

1 AAFP Statement of Policy on Clinical Practice Guidelines. 1994, updated 2008

<http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/policy/policies/c/clinicalpractguidelines.html>

2 AAFP Statement of Policy on Contraceptive Advice. Updated 2007.

<http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/policy/policies/c/contraceptiveadvice.html>

3 <http://www.cdc.gov/reproductivehealth/unintendedpregnancy/USMEC.htm>