TITLE: Resolution to Include Coverage for Vasectomy and Male Contraceptive Services in ACA Preventive Services and the Contraceptive Mandate

DATE: March 2, 2014

TO: CAFP All-Members Advocacy Meeting – Passed 3/2014
AAFP National Council of Special Constituencies – Passed 5/2014
AAFP Congress of Delegates- Passed 9/2014

Introduced by: Lealah Pollock MD MS, Rossan Chen MD MSc, Sarah McNeil MD, and Suzan Goodman MD MPH

Endorsed by: Contra-Costa Alameda, San Francisco, and Sonoma Chapters

WHEREAS coverage of male contraceptive services is currently not included in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) as a preventive service or under the “contraceptive mandate”¹, and

WHEREAS women already assume most of the burden of contraception, with regards to sterilization and other hormonal and non-hormonal methods²³, and

WHEREAS 27 percent of reproductive-aged women rely on female sterilization and only 10 percent rely on their partner’s vasectomy⁴, and

WHEREAS female sterilization carries 20-fold risk of major operative and a 30-fold risk of postoperative complications than vasectomy⁵, and

WHEREAS vasectomy is less expensive, with an average cost of vasectomy $708 in 2012, compared to the average cost of $1374 for transcervical methods or $2912 for other tubal ligation methods⁶, and

WHEREAS vasectomy is more effective than female sterilization at preventing pregnancy⁷⁸, and

WHEREAS mandated coverage of vasectomy could encourage uptake of this safe and effective form of contraception⁹, and

WHEREAS California’s proposed Contraceptive Equity Act of 2014 (SB 1053)¹⁰ builds on state Essential Health Benefits¹¹, reaffirming that plans must cover the full range of approved contraceptives and sterilization, regardless of sex, without cost-sharing.

WHEREAS exclusion of coverage for male contraceptive services is not evidence-based, may be discriminatory, and may further hinder male involvement in contraception¹², now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the CAFP endorse California’s Contraceptive Equity Act of 2014 (1053), and be it further

RESOLVED: That the CAFP ask the AAFP to advocate that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) amend the list of preventive services provided under the Affordable Care Act to include contraceptive services for all, including vasectomy, and be it further
RESOLVED: That the CAFP ask the AAFP to advocate that the US Preventative Services Task Force review the evidence and provide recommendations of preventative services to include contraceptive services for all patients, regardless of gender, including vasectomy.

4 Nguyen, Shih and Turok.
6 Nguyen, Shih and Turok.

10 SB 1053 - The Contraceptive Coverage Equity Act of 2014 (Mitchell)
12 Nguyen, Shih and Turok.