

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 109  
(A-90)

Introduced by: California Delegation  
Subject: Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine  
Referred to: Reference Committee E  
(Charles D. Sherman, Jr., M. D., Chairman)

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- 1       Whereas, The AMA strongly supports the responsible use of animals in biomedical re-  
2 search which is consistent with and necessary to the responsible practice of medicine; and  
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4       Whereas, A recent survey of practicing physicians in the United States conducted by the  
5 AMA reveals that 99 percent agree that animal experimentation has contributed to medical  
6 progress, that 97 percent support the use of animals for basic research, that 97 percent sup-  
7 port the use of animals for clinical research, that 96 percent support the use of animals for  
8 drug testing, and that 93 percent support the use of animals for medical education; and  
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10       Whereas, When the results of the AMA survey are compared with the results of a similar  
11 survey in 1948, it is shown that physicians' perceptions of the contribution of animal  
12 research have not changed during the past 40 years; and  
13  
14       Whereas, The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine often speaks out against  
15 the use of animals in research and erroneously reports that a "growing number" of physicians  
16 question the continued need to use animals in research, and has supported a campaign of mis-  
17 information against important animal research of AIDS and responsible animal users; and  
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19       Whereas, The name of Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine implies that those  
20 who disagree with its views are not in favor of responsible medicine; therefore be it  
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22       RESOLVED, That the American Medical Association register strong objections to the  
23 Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine for implying that physicians who support  
24 the use of animals in biomedical research are irresponsible, for misrepresenting the critical  
25 role animals play in research and teaching, and for obscuring the overwhelming support for  
26 such research which exists among practicing physicians in the United States.

Fiscal Note: No significant fiscal impact