

**ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY**

**Resolution 10.2019-15  
(A-20)**

Introduced by: Amar Davé, MD, ISMS Member  
Subject: Availability of In-City and Intercity Public Transportation in Rural Illinois as Well in Rural America  
Referred to: Council on Medical Service

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1           Whereas, ISMS has no policy regarding the availability of public transportation  
2 to the rural population in State of Illinois; and  
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4           Whereas, rural Illinois does not have reliable public transportation to the city and  
5 intercity for health services; and  
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7           Whereas, 17% of rural Americans live in poverty; and  
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9           Whereas, many of the rural residents are unable to drive, do not have vehicles,  
10 do not have reliable vehicles and have no access to public transportation; and  
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12           Whereas, this barrier to travel, affects the health care and social well-being of the  
13 rural elderly, disabled, families with and without children and more; and  
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15           Whereas, many affected citizens cannot keep appointments to their health care  
16 providers in city and outside a town or village at tertiary health care centers affecting  
17 their health adversely; and  
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19           Whereas, availability of a reliable, affordable, public transportation has the  
20 potential of impacting health and social well-being of rural folks who otherwise are  
21 prisoners in their little communities; therefore, be it  
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23           RESOLVED, that ISMS work with the Institute of Rural Affairs, the Rural  
24 Transit Center at Western Illinois University, and/or other appropriate governmental and  
25 rural advocacy entities to promote awareness of the need for affordable public  
26 transportation to access needed medical services in rural Illinois communities.

**Fiscal Note:**

N/A

**Existing ISMS policy related to this issue:**

The Illinois State Medical Society reaffirms organized medicine's commitment to provide care to those who need medical care, regardless of their ability to pay for it. However, personal medical care is primarily the responsibility of the individual. When he is unable to provide this care for himself, the responsibility should properly pass to his family, the community, the county, the state, and only when all these fail, to the federal government, and only in conjunction with the other levels of government in the order above. The determination of medical needs should be made by a physician. The determination of eligibility should be made at the local level with local administration and control. The principle of freedom of choice should be preserved. (HOD 1982 Interim Amended; Last BOT Review 2012)

It is the policy of ISMS to support the concept of physician-directed and supervised low-risk obstetrical services within rural community hospitals in underserved areas. This type of service should include appropriate pre-natal care and transportation to higher level obstetrical centers when necessary. (HOD 1989; Last BOT Review 2013)

The Illinois State Medical Society will maintain as a priority the problem of physician shortages in rural areas. (HOD 1990; BOT Reaffirmed 2008; Reaffirmed 2015; Last BOT Review 2013)

ISMS supports the principle that access to food, shelter, and health care are all necessities that our society provides its members and that health care is a resource to which all citizens should have access and that health care providers, like those who provide food and shelter, should be appropriately reimbursed for their services. (HOD 2000)

It is the policy of ISMS to recognize the need for and participate in development of a health care policy that will assure the needs of our needy uninsured population are met, and that the AMA should assume a principal role in developing a national policy on health care which will assure that the medical needs of the needy uninsured population are met. (HOD 2002)

ISMS supports designating the shortage of primary care and specialist physicians throughout Illinois as a "Physician Health Workforce Crisis" and supports widespread awareness of this concern to public and private sectors statewide. ISMS supports the

recommendations of the 2006 ISMS Task Force on Health Workforce Shortages Report, including support for the creation of a physician database in Illinois, creation of a formal strategy to raise awareness of the physician workforce shortage problem to legislators and citizens, and convening a statewide task force to address the issue of attracting and retaining physicians in Illinois. ISMS supports medical education in rural communities, including the Illinois Agricultural Association's (IAA) Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program (RIMSAP), and the Illinois Department of Public Health's Center for Rural Health Medical Student Scholarship Program. ISMS supports the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford's National Center for Rural Health Professions, and Southern Illinois University's School of Medicine's Rural Health Initiative. ISMS supports medical education in Illinois for rural and underserved areas, urging more financial support of Illinois' public and private medical schools and encouraging more medical students and residents to study, train and practice in Illinois. ISMS encourages its member physicians and their non-member colleagues to train students and residents in clerkship and residency rotations in and for primary care shortage areas through Illinois. (HOD 2008; Reaffirmed 2015; Last BOT Review 2013)