Whereas, The World Medical Association (WMA )declarations of Geneva, of Helsinki and of Tokyo make clear the duties and responsibilities of the medical profession to preserve and safeguard the health of the patient and to consecrate itself to the service of humanity ; and

Whereas, The WMA considers that it has a duty to work for the elimination of nuclear weapons, and

Whereas, the American Medical Association (AMA) supports the elimination by all nations of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass and indiscriminate destruction the AMA (H-H-520.988), and

Whereas, the AMA recognizes the catastrophic dangers to all life in the event of nuclear war and supports efforts for the prevention of such a nuclear holocaust (H-520.999), and

Whereas, the AMA acknowledges the threat from nuclear weapons to the health of the people of the world and favors the establishment of a mutual, verifiable, and comprehensive nuclear test ban (H-520.994), and

Whereas, the AMA supports continued efforts to publicize its position that there is no adequate medical response to nuclear war (H-520.995), and

Whereas, the crisis in Ukraine highlights the escalating danger of nuclear war, and

Whereas, new data have shown that even a limited use of nuclear weapons would cause catastrophic global climate disruption and worldwide famine, putting billions at risk of starvation, and

Whereas, a Lancet editorial in January 2010 concedes “Now is the moment for physicians and scientists to build new opportunities for political progress to defuse the danger of a new more regionally focused nuclear arms race”, and

Whereas, 30 Deans of American Medical School and Schools of Public Health have issued a statement indicating “We believe, as a matter of public health policy, that nuclear weapons must be eliminated in the near future. We call on our colleagues in the medical and public health communities to support such efforts and to educate their colleagues, patients and communities about the enormous danger we face as long as these weapons exist.” (American Journal of Preventive Medicine, March 2012), and

Whereas, the Massachusetts Medical Society (MMS) strongly opposes intentional use and release of nuclear material in manners not beneficial to humankind and/or the environment (MMS House of Delegates May 12, 2006), and
Whereas existing MMS policy concerning nuclear war was allowed to sunset in 2013 with the rationale: “Policy unnecessary. If the need arises, a more specific/relevant policy should be proposed”,

therefor be it

RESOLVED, that the MMS adopt policy that: (HP)

- Condemns the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, deployment, threat and use of nuclear weapons;
- Requests all governments to refrain from the development, testing, production, stockpiling, transfer, deployment, threat and use of nuclear weapons and to work in good faith towards the elimination of nuclear weapons;
- Advises the government of the United States, and all national governments, that even a limited nuclear war would have catastrophic effects on the world’s food supply and would put a significant proportion of the world’s population at risk from a nuclear famine;
- Urges education of the general public that the threat of a limited nuclear war is an overwhelming threat to public health, and
- Urges the government of the United States, and all national governments, to continue to work to ban and eliminate nuclear weapons, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the MMS will plan an educational program on the public health dangers of limited and major nuclear war, and be it further (D)

RESOLVED, that the MMS urges the AMA to develop a comprehensive educational program on the entire issue of the public health dangers of limited as well as major nuclear war.(HP)