



Access to Health Care for Undocumented Persons Policy Statement

Adopted by the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations at the 57th March General Assembly in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2008

Summary:

We, the participants of the 57th March General Assembly acknowledge that the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being. We, the International Federation of Medical Students Associations, fully support this basic human right. We would like to draw your attention to, and ask both governmental and non-governmental organisations for support in the promotion and respect of the right to health for all; including our societies' vulnerable minority groups.

Statement:

Article I: Today undocumented, or irregular, persons are being denied the same level of access to health care as other residents, which has severe consequences on the health of this group and constitutes a violation of the right to health.

Article II: With existing legislation regulating the access to health care for undocumented persons in many countries we, the doctors of tomorrow, may be forced to discriminate against some of our own patients. This makes it impossible for us to work in accordance with the principles of medical ethics and the human right to health.

In conclusion, the IFMSA emphasizes that only the medical needs, and not the legal status, of patients should be the basis from which we guide our actions as the doctors of tomorrow. Therefore, all undocumented persons should be offered the same health care, on the same basis, as other residents.