

RESOLUTION 2011 - D

SUBMITTED TO: American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates

SUBMITTED BY: Michigan Osteopathic Association

SUBJECT: Disposal of Medications

1 **Whereas**, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines medical waste as "any
2 solid waste that is generated in the diagnosis, treatment, or immunization of human
3 beings or animals, in research pertaining thereto, or in the production or testing of
4 biologicals," and,

5 **Whereas**, appropriate management of materials has been regulated through the EPA
6 and endorsed by major medical associations; and

7 **Whereas**, the EPA does not include medicines (both over-the-counter [OTC] and
8 prescribed) in the EPA medical waste definition; and

9 **Whereas**, inappropriate medication disposal enters local sewage systems rather than
10 being delivered to appropriate medical waste disposal facilities;

11 **Therefore, Be it Resolved**, that the Michigan Osteopathic Association (MOA)
12 encourage the development of policies appropriate for the safe disposal of over-the-
13 counter (OTC) and prescribed medication, by working with appropriate state agencies in
14 the endeavor; and

15 **Be it Further Resolved**, that the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) to work with
16 federal regulatory agencies to promote safe disposal and destruction of medications in
17 appropriate medical waste disposal facilities.