

NATIONAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Resolution on the Chemical Safety Improvement Act Approved at ANNUAL MEETING OF HOUSE OF DELEGATES-July 2013

1 “WHEREAS,” communities of color are disproportionately affected by chemical exposure and, therefore,
2 suffer the health consequences more intently; and,

3 “WHEREAS,” people of color are more likely to live closest to industrial production facilities, live near
4 transportation routes for dangerous chemicals, use products containing toxic chemicals; live near
5 landfills and waste incinerators where toxic products are disposed, and live among properties
6 contaminated with toxic wastes left from previous industrial use; and,

7 “WHEREAS,” people of color suffer from higher rates of asthma, cancer, low birth weight, autoimmune
8 diseases, diabetes, and obesity that are associated with exposure to toxic chemicals as a result of this
9 exposure; and,

10 “WHEREAS,” over 100 studies have shown that animals and people who are experiencing psychosocial
11 stress from factors such as relative poverty and racism exhibit an increased susceptibility to adverse
12 physiological and toxicological effects at lower than expected levels of chemical exposure; and,

13 “WHEREAS,” the NMA has previously adopted a policy on comprehensive chemical policy reform to
14 update the largely ineffective 1976 Toxic Substances Control Act and, through its Environmental Health
15 Task Force and state affiliates, has been working with Congress and the Safer Chemicals, Healthy
16 Families Campaign to advocate for a more health protective law; and,

17 “WHEREAS,” the late Senator Frank Lautenberg and Senator David Vitter have introduced a new
18 bipartisan bill, the Chemical Safety Improvement Act (CSIA); and,

19 “WHEREAS,” CSIA does not require the protection of vulnerable populations or communities; and

20 “WHEREAS,” CSIA requires an extra level of analysis and red tape before EPA could phase out the
21 production and use of a chemical, even after a chemical fails a safety determination; and,

22 “WHEREAS,” CSIA would preempt health protective state laws and regulations on specific chemicals
23 before there are any federal regulations in place for these chemicals; and,

24 “WHEREAS,” CSIA has few enforceable deadlines and timetables for EPA to review and regulate
25 chemicals;

26 THEREFORE, BE IT

27 “RESOLVED” that NMA President and Environmental Health Task Force be charged with advocating that
28 the Chemical Safety Improvement Act be strengthened to better protect vulnerable populations and
29 “hotspot” communities, expedite phase out of the most harmful chemicals, preserve state authority to
30 regulate chemicals, and require meaningful deadlines and timetables for implementation of chemical
31 regulations, and,

32 “RESOLVED” that NMA not support the Chemical Safety Improvement Act or other chemical policy
33 reform legislation unless it has substantial provisions for the above protections.