

Resolution 26-301
Availability and Use of Airway Clearance Devices for Choking Emergencies in Schools
Duval County Medical Society

1 Whereas, In the US, choking is the 4th leading cause of unintentional death ³, a leading
2 cause of preventable injury and death in children, and can rapidly result in hypoxia, brain
3 injury, or death if not promptly treated; and

4
5 Whereas, The current standard first-line response to choking includes 5 abdominal thrusts
6 and 5 back blows as recommended by the American Heart Association and American Red
7 Cross, which may be ineffective or not feasible in certain populations (wheelchair bound,
8 pregnant, etc.); and

9
10 Whereas, Airway clearance devices, including non-powered suction devices registered with
11 the FDA, have been developed as adjunctive tools ^{1,2}; and

12
13 Whereas, Such devices are simple to use, require minimal training, and have been utilized
14 in schools and public settings; and

15
16 Whereas, Florida has already passed laws to support training and implementation of life-
17 saving interventions such as AEDs in all schools by July 2027, ⁵ and mandated training for
18 utilizing epinephrine auto-injectors ⁴; and

19
20 Whereas, The Florida Medical Association supports policies that enhance emergency
21 preparedness in schools; and

22
23 Whereas, Expanding access to additional emergency response tools may improve
24 outcomes in choking emergencies; therefore, be it

25
26 **RESOLVED**, That the Florida Medical Association advocate for legislation requiring all
27 Florida public and charter schools to maintain at least one FDA-registered suction-based
28 airway clearance device on-site for use as a second-line adjunct when standard back blows
29 and abdominal thrusts fail to relieve foreign body airway obstruction; and be it further

30
31 **RESOLVED**, That the Florida Medical Association collaborate with relevant stakeholders to
32 support the development and implementation of standardized training and protocols to
33 ensure the safe and appropriate use of airway clearance devices by school personnel in
34 Florida schools.

Fiscal Note:

Description	Amount	Budget Narrative
300 Staff hours	\$60,000	Can be accomplished with current staff
Total	\$60,000	\$0 added to the operating budget

Fiscal notes are an estimate of the cost to implement a given Resolution. All Resolutions that are adopted by the House of Delegates will be referred to the FMA Committee on Finance and Appropriations for fiscal consideration.

Reference Committee: III – Legislation and Miscellaneous

References:

1. Dunne CL, Peden AE, Queiroga AC, Gomez Gonzalez C, Valesco B, Szpilman D. A systematic review on the effectiveness of anti-choking suction devices and identification of research gaps. *Resuscitation*. 2020 Aug;153:219-226. doi: 10.1016/j.resuscitation.2020.02.021. Epub 2020 Feb 27. PMID: 32114068.
2. Paludi MA, Palermo N, Limonti F, Semeraro A, Ermanno D, Ganzino S, Ramacciati N. A systematic review on suction-based airway clearance devices for foreign body airway obstruction. *Int Emerg Nurs*. 2025 Mar;79:101575. doi: 10.1016/j.ienj.2025.101575. Epub 2025 Jan 29. PMID: 39884054.
3. Saccomanno S, Saran S, Coceani Paskay L, De Luca M, Tricerri A, Mafucci Orlandini S, Greco F, Messina G. Risk factors and prevention of choking. *Eur J Transl Myol*. 2023 Oct 27;33(4):11471. doi: 10.4081/ejtm.2023.11471. PMID: 37905785; PMCID: PMC10811631.
4. Senate Bill 1514: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1514>
5. Senate Bill 430: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/430/Analyses/2025s00430.aed.PDF>