WHEREAS, correctional employees’ wellness is a critical issue and has reached crisis proportions; and
WHEREAS, the unique inherent risks correctional employees are exposed to have resulted in increased health risks; and
WHEREAS, much focus and research have been conducted on law enforcement, firefighters, and other areas of public safety regarding this critical issue, but very few resources have been used on researching correctional employees’ wellness and very few resources have been used to provide tools to improve correctional employees’ wellness; and
WHEREAS, the nature of the correctional environment can be a causative factor in high-risk behaviors, such as the abuse of alcohol, prescription medications, and illegal substances; and
WHEREAS, traumatic events in a correctional environment may result in employees experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder; and now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Correctional Association urges correctional agencies to raise awareness and educate employees regarding employee wellness in a corrections environment, including emphasis on employment-related stress; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Correctional Association encourages agencies to develop and implement wellness initiatives and convene wellness committees regarding all the dimensions of wellness, including emotional, environmental, financial, intellectual, occupational, physical, social and spiritual; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Correctional Association is committed to supporting and improving the overall wellness of correctional employees.

This resolution was adopted by the American Correctional Association Delegate Assembly on January 24, 2017 at the 2017 Winter Conference in San Antonio, TX.