

RESOLUTION 9 – 06A

**Title: Task Force Examining Quality of Supplemental Companies
and Their Products**

Introduced by: Stephen J. Bachmeyer, MD, Lenawee County

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Referred to: Reference Committee B

House Action:

Whereas, over the counter supplemental medicines such as vitamins, herbs, and amino acids are proliferating in the pharmacies and supermarkets, advertised on-line, on TV, in magazines, and delivered by mail and pushed by untrained individuals operating home distribution companies, and

Whereas, there is little regulation of these companies by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and little or nothing is publicly known about many companies supplying these products, and

Whereas, potentially life threatening mistakes have been made by manufacturers in production of supplemental products (e.g. tryptophan supplements from Asia were shown to cause deaths and neurological impairment, and herbal-life products have been blamed for injuries), and

Whereas, it is widely considered in the medical community that these products are pharmaceuticals where, at best, their full benefit is unknown, at least, they may be a rip-off, and at worst, there are documented cases of harm, and, therefore, physicians are often at a complete loss when patients present to them holding advertising or bottles of supplements, and asking “should I take this,” and

Whereas, information is available about herbals and supplements in books, journals and in the Commission E Monographs, but little is available about the quality of the products being sold by the individual manufacturers, and

Whereas, the answer to this question is a matter of patient safety, and

Whereas, there exists a governmental mission for the state to protect its citizens from harm; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS urge Governor Granholm and the Michigan legislature to create a public health task force to examine the supplements available to Michigan citizens, targeting the manufacturers themselves, in order to create a useable spectrum reflecting the overall quality of each company's manufacturing standards, specifically noting the best and the worst, and to publish this regularly for physicians to have at their disposal, thus allowing physicians to gain a sense of which companies to trust over others; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the AMA ask the AMA to urge the federal legislature and Food and Drug Administration to create policies that will allow regulation and control of all supplemental products, similar to the regulation it imposes on the pharmaceutical companies.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE