

**RESOLUTION 10 – 06A**

**Title: Improving Medicaid Reimbursements to Orthopedic Surgeons**

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

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**Referred to: Reference Committee B**

**House Action:**

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**Whereas, availability of orthopedic services to Medicaid patients is limited by the number of surgeons willing to accept its diminished reimbursement schedule, and**

**Whereas, given such a fee schedule as exists now, orthopedic surgeons are unable to cover the overhead costs of caring for Medicaid patients and most orthopedic surgeons would incur significant losses if they were to open to Medicaid, and**

**Whereas, due to the infeasibility of the present situation, many orthopedic practices are closed to Medicaid patients except in extreme emergency, and many counties have no orthopedic practices to which to refer non-urgent patients, and**

**Whereas, many non-urgent orthopedic conditions, which are extremely painful, disabling, and interfere with productivity, may be treated with outpatient modalities including physical therapies, bracing, casting, injections, or simple surgery, and**

**Whereas, such conditions are going untreated because there are no available specialists to care for them, and**

**Whereas, this leads to increased physician referral of Medicaid patients to tertiary care and teaching centers, and to those few surgeons willing to take the loss of caring for such patients, overwhelming the public institutions and souring the charity of individuals, and**

**Whereas, this leads to a collapse of the tertiary care delivery system, loss of physician charitable activities, continuation of progressive and recurrent orthopedic injuries in Michigan's workforce, loss of productivity, and**

**Whereas, most orthopedic surgeons express a strong desire to be able to care for such hurting, underserved, Medicaid insured individuals, but find it impossible to sustain a practice open to doing so, and**

**Whereas, Michigan's Medicaid population expresses a strong desire to have its orthopedic disabilities addressed, and resolved, and**

**Whereas, physicians and patients alike are complaining to one another with worsening frustration regarding the misappropriation of the state's resources by those leaders charged with protecting their well-being; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED: That MSMS urge Governor Granholm and the Michigan legislature to directly address the inequities of the payment schedule for orthopedic practices, and come up with creative incentives such as a fee schedule designed to cover overhead cost coupled with state tax breaks, or other incentives, and make a serious, concentrated effort at resolving the crisis that has developed.**

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**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE**