

RESOLUTION 33 – 06A

Title: Designate All Michigan Residency Training Programs as Underserved Areas

Introduced by: Thomas S. Markus, MD, MI Section, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

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Referred To: Reference Committee E

House Action:

Whereas, the recent Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) physician supply study indicates a potential shortage of 6,000 physicians by 2020, and

Whereas, recent studies by the Michigan Department of Community Health and by the Michigan medical school deans support the MSMS predicted shortage of physicians, and

Whereas, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists predicts a national shortage of OB/GYNs by 2010, just four years from now, and

Whereas, many of the new physicians being recruited to residency training programs are carrying a student loan debt of more than \$100,000, and

Whereas, many large, suburban centers are able to provide large incentives to attract resident physicians to the detriment of community programs, and

Whereas, this disadvantage in recruiting also leads to a decreased incentive for a young physician to stay in a local community, and

Whereas, the arcane bureaucracy of obtaining a designation as an underserved area for purposes of qualifying for the federal medical school loan forgiveness program can be seemingly arbitrary with one area so designated and another area only a half-mile away denied such designation, and

Whereas, physicians in community residency training programs provide care for many patients from surrounding underserved areas in various clinics, yet are not eligible for the loan forgiveness program, and

Whereas, the predicted shortage of physicians may, in fact, be more acute and noticeable in smaller communities and underserved areas than in the larger metropolitan areas, and

Whereas, the recent MSMS report on "The Future of Medicine: Leading the Way to a Better Health Care System" calls for, among many other noble goals, assuring an adequate supply of physicians and ensuring universal access and coverage, and

Whereas, MSMS should do all it can to help attract and retain physicians all over the state; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS work with all appropriate state and federal government entities to designate all Michigan residency training programs as underserved areas and eligible for the student loan forgiveness program.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE