

Title: Impaired Drivers
Introduced by: Jeanette M. Meyer, MD, Kalamazoo County
Original Author: Jeanette M. Meyer, MD
Referred to: Reference Committee E
House Action: Referred to the Board for Study

Whereas, motor vehicle accidents are the leading cause of injury-related deaths for persons 65-74 years of age and the second leading cause of accidental death for elders over 75 years, and

Whereas, elderly drivers have a higher fatality rate per mile driven than any other age group except those less than 25 years of age, and

Whereas, physicians have a role as patient advocates and a duty to patient confidentiality as well as to public health and safety, and

Whereas, the AMA states that in circumstances where it is clear that driving impairment implies a strong threat to patient and public safety, and where the physician's advice to discontinue driving privileges is ignored, it is desirable and ethical to notify the Department of Motor Vehicles, and

Whereas, the state of Michigan does not provide anonymity or legal protection for physicians who report patients believed to be at high risk as impaired drivers; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS urge Governor Granholm and the Michigan legislature to support a policy that would mandate the reporting of impaired drivers who persistently ignore the advice of a licensed physician not to drive, similar to the mandatory report of certain contagious diseases; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS urge the Governor and legislature of the state of Michigan to indemnify physicians from the requirement of confidentiality when reporting impaired drivers who persistently ignore the advice of a licensed physician not to drive, similar to the mandatory report of certain contagious diseases.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE