

RESOLUTION 78 – 06A

Title: Physician and Medical Student Health Education Initiative

Introduced by: Amanda L. Davis for the Medical Student Section

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Referred to: Reference Committee C

House Action:

Whereas, the Michigan Surgeon General has called on the Michigan school system to serve at the forefront of our children’s healthcare education (see <http://www.michigan.gov/surgeongeneral/0,1607,7-216-38291---,00.html>), and

Whereas, the Michigan State Board of Education recommends that each school district adopt a research-based comprehensive health education program that focuses on behaviors that have the greatest affect on health and includes up-to-date and accurate information, (see Michigan State Board of Education Policy On Comprehensive School Health Education at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/Health_Education_Policy_final_94135_7.pdf), and

Whereas, MSMS has taken an active role in the Healthcare Group of Michigan ‘Steps Up’ program and is promoting the Surgeon General's Campaign messages of moving more, eating better, and not smoking to the citizens of Michigan, (see <http://www.michigan.gov/surgeongeneral/0,1607,7-216-35994-115541--,00.html>), and

Whereas, the AMA currently proposes an ‘obesity plan’ that urges physicians to serve as role models for patients and encourages the sharing of weight loss management strategies, (see <http://www.ama-assn.org/>), and

Whereas, 24 percent of Michigan high-school students are overweight or at risk of becoming overweight, (see CDC YRBSS, 2001), and

Whereas, 29 percent of low-income children between 2 and 5 years of age in Michigan are overweight or at risk of becoming overweight, (see CDC PedNSS, 2003), and

Whereas, more than 400,000 deaths in the US each year are from smoking related illnesses, (see http://dccps.nci.nih.gov/tcrb/Smoking_Facts/about.html), and

Whereas, the 2003 Youth Risk Factor Surveillance Study indicates that 33.4 percent of youth don't engage in physical activity that promotes long-term health, (see <http://www.justmove.org/fitnessnews/healthf.cfm?Target=kidsfacts.html>), and

Whereas, children in the U.S. today are less fit than they were a generation ago and showing early signs of increased cardiovascular disease risk such as weight gain, higher serum cholesterol, and cigarette smoking, (see <http://www.justmove.org/fitnessnews/healthf.cfm?Target=kidsfacts.html>), and

Whereas, among US adults who have ever smoked daily, 91 percent tried their first cigarette before age 20 years old, (see http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/research_data/mm4444.pdf), and

Whereas, most people could be prevented from becoming addicted if they could be kept tobacco-free during adolescence, (see http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/research_data/bka/ythaddct..highlights.htm), and

Whereas, by age 18, 70percent of females and 62 percent of males are sexually active, resulting in 850,000 teen pregnancies per year and by age 25, 9.1 million STI's, (see <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/factsheet/fssexcur.htm>), and

Whereas, no highly effective sex education program is eligible for federal funding. The government currently supports (with over one billion dollars) abstinence-only programs, which have never been shown to delay the initiation sex or protect youth from risky sexual behavior, (see <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/factsheet/fssexcur.htm>), and

Whereas, comprehensive sex education has been effective to assist youths in making healthy decisions and adopting healthy behaviors, (see <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/factsheet/fssexcur.htm>); therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS sponsor an initiative in which medical students and physicians volunteer their time to speak on health related issues in local schools in an effort to impact the growing health concerns in Michigan using pre-formed modules centered on obesity, a healthy diet, smoking, and sexual health.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE