

RESOLUTION 7 - 05A

Title: Unlicensed Midwifery

Introduced by: Thomas S. Markus, MD, MI Section, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Original Author: Thomas S. Markus, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee B

House Action: Referred to the Board for Study

Whereas, presently under Michigan law, the practice of “lay” (non-nurse) midwifery is not considered the practice of medicine in reference to “home” deliveries, and

Whereas, there is no provision in the state licensing statute for licensing “lay” (hereafter called unlicensed) midwives, and as a result there is no mechanism to assure the quality of care provided by unlicensed midwives, and

Whereas, in rural areas of this state, there are a fair number of “home” deliveries, often, there are complications of these deliveries that bring patients to hospitals, where they are cared for by licensed professionals, and

Whereas, there is no way to discipline unlicensed midwives for substandard care (i.e., such as disciplinary actions taken against licensed professionals), and

Whereas, the only legal recourse in these situations involve the criminal justice system; most families and patients are unwilling to pursue criminal charges against an unlicensed midwife for something that usually represents substandard care; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS support the Michigan Section, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologist’s opposition to obstetrical care provided by unlicensed practitioners; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS seek legislation that requires unlicensed health care providers to fill out newborn birth and death certificates consistent with the law requiring this from licensed health care providers.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE