

RESOLUTION 37 - 05A

Title: Use of the Title “Physician”
Introduced by: Pino D. Colone, MD, for the Genesee County Delegation
Original Author: Pino D. Colone, MD
Referred to: Reference Committee E
House Action: Approved

Whereas, the title of physician represents a relationship of trust and healing between a patient and his/her medical doctor, and

Whereas, the title of physician is given to a person completing a qualified school of allopathic or osteopathic medicine and receiving his or her MD or DO degree, and

Whereas, many individuals and organizations freely use the title of doctor in their names, e.g. optometrists, podiatrists, “homeopaths,” “natural healers,” etc, and

Whereas, individuals are extrapolating from the use of “doctor” to the calling themselves physicians, e.g. “physician of optometry,” or “homeopathic physician,” and

Whereas, misusing of the title doctor or physician can easily confuse the lay public implying a false level of training and creating a false sense of trust that one would have with his or her physician, allowing for disclosure of personal information or undue reliance on that individual for care beyond their knowledge or scope; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS work with the legislature and all appropriate bodies to ensure that the title of physician is used exclusively by persons completing a qualified school of allopathic or osteopathic medicine and receiving his or her MD or DO degree; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the AMA ask the AMA to work with state medical societies and their legislatures and all appropriate bodies to ensure that the title of physician is used exclusively by persons completing a qualified school of allopathic or osteopathic medicine and receiving his or her MD or DO degree.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE