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3 **Title: Voting Rights for Patients with Dementia**  
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5 **Introduced by: Domenic R. Federico, MD, for the Kent County Delegation**  
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7 **Original Author: Jayne E. Courts, MD**  
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9 **Referred to: Reference Committee B**  
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11 **House Action: Referred to the Board for Study**  
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14 **Whereas, voting is a right in this country for all citizens age 18 and older**  
15 **as guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States of America, and**  
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17 **Whereas, dementia is a progressive disease which affects cognitive**  
18 **function, including the ability to make complex decisions which require intact**  
19 **reasoning such as decisions regarding finances or medical care, and**  
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21 **Whereas, the option of voting by absentee ballot presents an easy**  
22 **opportunity for voter fraud or abuse, and**  
23

24 **Whereas, there are no specific laws in this state which prohibit patients**  
25 **with dementia from voting<sup>1</sup>; therefore be it**  
26

27 **RESOLVED: That MSMS review current state voting laws and present**  
28 **legislation mandating that patients who have been declared legally incompetent**  
29 **to manage their finances and their medical care be prohibited from voting in all**  
30 **local, state, and national elections; and be it further**  
31

32 **RESOLVED: That MSMS work with the Michigan Secretary of State to**  
33 **arrange physician reporting of patients who have been declared legally**  
34 **incompetent to manage their finances and their medical care with subsequent**  
35 **removal of these patient names from the statewide qualified voter list; and be it**  
36 **further**  
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38 **RESOLVED: That MSMS provide education to physicians about any new**  
39 **requirement to report patients who have been declared legally incompetent to**  
40 **manage their finances and their medical care to the Michigan Secretary of State.**  
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42 **WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: None**  
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<sup>1</sup> Michigan Election Law, Act 111 of 1954 MCL 168.509a – 168.509z