

RESOLUTION 8-07A

Title: Support Lifting Medicare Cap on Graduate Medical Education Funding

**Introduced by: Marianna Spanaki-Varelas, MD, for the IMG Section
Supported by the Organized Medical Staff Section**

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Referred to: Reference Committee E

House Action: Adopted as Amended

Whereas, there is a shortage of physicians in some specialties such as critical care, vascular surgery, radiology, and others, and

Whereas, the shortage is expected to worsen in the near future across all specialties, and

Whereas, the shortage is nationwide (in both inner city and rural environments), and

Whereas, this shortage negatively impacts access to care for our patients, and

Whereas, some attempts have been made to address this issue by increasing enrollment in medical schools, and

Whereas, those attempts may not be cost effective and may take much longer to achieve those goals, and

Whereas, the main limiting factor on training residents is the cap on Graduate Medical Education (GME) reimbursement by Medicare, and

Whereas, lifting this cap will achieve the required workforce in a shorter timeframe and more cost effectively; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the AMA ask the AMA to address the issue of the impending physician shortage and seek all means to increase Graduate Medical Education (GME) slots, and explore alternative fully funding mechanisms for those slots by working to eliminate the full time

equivalent resident cap on fully funded residency positions established by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, by working to promote legislation that facilitates the establishment of, and full funding for, new residency programs with a focus on the establishment of new programs in growing population centers and rural areas, and by working to create a federal loan program that assists hospitals with the initial costs of residency development; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the AMA ask the AMA to seek federal legislation to lift the Medicare cap on GME full funding, and preserve Medicare and Medicaid full funding of GME until a stable alternative full funding source can be established.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE