

RESOLUTION 45-07A

Title: Incentive for Surgeons Taking Emergency Department Call

Introduced by: Ronald C. Barry, MD, Saginaw County

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Referred to: Reference Committee A

House Action: No Action

Whereas, there is a crisis in patient access to emergency surgical care in part due to an aging surgical workforce, a decreasing number of available surgeons, a concern about increasing liability, and a decreasing reimbursement for key emergency procedures as noted in an article on “Crisis of Patient Access to Emergency Surgical Care” in the “Bulletin,” American College of Surgeons, Vol. 91, No. 8, August 2006, and

Whereas, self-pay is the largest single payment category for trauma center patients at 21 percent, and

Whereas, many surgeons who treat emergency patients without insurance and who end up not being paid for any services are essentially doing charitable work; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS urge the federal government to support the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) mandate that physicians provide care for the uninsured emergency department patients by providing some tax relief for these services in the form of a deductible business expense no less than 25 percent of the Medicare allowed costs for the procedures or services performed.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE