

RESOLUTION 85-07A

Title: Infant and Child Protection Initiative

**Introduced by: Federico G. Mariona, MD, for the Wayne County Delegation
Supported by the Genesee County Delegation**

Original Author: Federico G. Mariona, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee D

House Action: No Action

Whereas, infant and child injury and homicide in Michigan are significant social concerns with critical medical implications, and

Whereas, the death of a child should be a sentinel event in any community as a defining marker of a society policy on safety and health of the country's next generation, and

Whereas, more than 75 percent of such injured children are between three and five years of age indicating their vulnerability and less than 20 percent of suspected child abuse victims are placed under appropriate care after a report of abuse or neglect, and

Whereas, infant and child battering, lack of adult supervision with the occurrence of child-to-child injury, unsafe storage of fire arms, suffocation, choking, burning, vehicular or residential abandonment of unprotected children, incompetent foster care parenting, malnutrition, improperly and incompletely researched adoption placements, poisoning, exposure to toxics, worrisome unsafe environment, shaken baby syndrome, delay or lack of adequate health care, frequent changes in health care professional or institutional provider, and high number of frequent emergency room visits are all specific intentional activities or activities with suspicious intent and proven markers of child abuse and neglect, and

Whereas, validated tools for the identification of such vulnerable children are available for effective use by social services and children protective agencies, and

Whereas, public education programs have proven to positively impact the frequency of child abuse and neglect and all the above discernible patterns of child abuse and neglect can be forecasted; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS work closely with all state social and community based agencies, medical specialty societies, and child and infant care coalitions to enhance public awareness, education, and communication to better coordinate all processes and activities conducive to protect and defend infants and children; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS work with all related state institutions to establish stronger policy-level changes in child protection, improve financing of children preventive services, and reduce duplication of services resulting in a safe, protective, and stimulating family and home environment for our children.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE