

## RESOLUTION 90-07A

**Title:** Health Care Costs

**Introduced by:** H. Richard Henderson, MD, for the Wayne County Delegation

**Original Author:** H. Richard Henderson, MD

**Referred to:** Reference Committee A

**House Action:** Adopted as Amended

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Whereas, our friends, neighbors, relatives, acquaintances and physician colleagues have voiced concerns about the unnecessary tests, procedures, medications and more that they are subject to by their physicians, and

Whereas, there may be some truth in these concerns when health care service delivery experts like John Wennberg and his associates at Dartmouth College indicate that as much as half of all health care consumed in some regions is medically unnecessary, and

Whereas, Medicare expenditures for beneficiaries living in Detroit and Miami are twice what they are for beneficiaries living in San Francisco or New York City, and

Whereas, the United States ranks 24th in the World Health Organization's study of life expectancy at 70 years compared to number one Japan at 74.5 years while the U.S. spends twice as much as any other country on health care, and

Whereas, physicians, whose salaries amount to 20 percent of health care costs, are responsible for much of the other 80 percent of health care costs in terms of what we order, and

Whereas, only physicians can create and sustain meaningful practice efficiencies and savings, and

Whereas, most care in the United States is rationed implicitly by one's ability to pay with some getting too little, and others get too much, and

Whereas, the AMA, in its Agenda 2007, rightfully puts as first "expanded medical coverage for the uninsured" and also comes down on the side of "evidence-based quality standards" for physicians; therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** That in the name of cost effective, quality health care for all, the Michigan Delegation to the AMA ask the AMA to include in its Agenda 2008 that the medical profession advocate for and become more vocal for appropriate, cost effective, and reasonable care.

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**WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE**