

**RESOLUTION 96-07A**

**Title: Medicaid Reimbursement for Translators**

**Introduced by: Timothy P. Madion, MD, for the Michigan Section of American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists**

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**Referred to: Reference Committee B**

**House Action: No Action**

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**Whereas, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists remains committed to the care of all patients, regardless of ethnic origin, and**

**Whereas, a growing percentage of our patient population is non-English-speaking, including Spanish-speaking and others, and**

**Whereas, it can be difficult and expensive to provide translator services in a timely and effective manner, and**

**Whereas, it is not uncommon to hire a translator for a patient visit, only to then have that patient not show up for his or her appointment, and**

**Whereas, current law requires individual physicians and physician offices to provide translator services at no cost to patients, and**

**Whereas, Medicaid does not reimburse individual physicians or their practices for the provision of these services, and**

**Whereas, Medicaid reimbursement rates in the state of Michigan are already extremely low when compared to other states in the Union; therefore be it**

**RESOLVED: That MSMS initiate and support legislation requiring Medicaid to reimburse individual physicians and physician practices for providing translating services to their non-English-speaking patients who otherwise utilize Medicaid for insurance at a level that covers the cost of providing translating services in their respective regions and is paid whether or not the patients actually show-up for their appointments if the translator has already been hired.**

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