

## RESOLUTION 40-08A

**Title:** Primary Care Strategy

**Introduced by:** Domenic R. Federico, MD, for the Kent County Delegation

**Original Author:** John E. vanSchagen, MD

**Referred to:** Reference Committee E

**House Action:** Adopted

---

Whereas, fewer and fewer medical students are choosing a career in primary care, and

Whereas, current and projected shortages in primary care doctors in our state are expected to worsen, and

Whereas, based on the “Medical School Tuition and Young Physician Indebtedness” report published in 2003 by the Association of American Medical Colleges, the average 2003 debt for students in public medical schools was \$100K and in private medical schools was \$135K; this was projected to increase by 2007 to \$117 and \$150 respectively, and

Whereas, medical students may avoid primary care specialties based on their indebtedness, and

Whereas, studies done by Barbara Starfield, MD, and others show that counties with higher ratios of primary care physicians have lower mortality rates, less obesity, less cigarette smoking, and lower costs of health care, and

Whereas, Mississippi House Bill 1965 was passed that established the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program and Commission for the purpose of recruiting and training qualified persons to practice medicine in rural areas of the state and also provided a mechanism for providing financial assistance for these students; therefore be it

**RESOLVED:** That MSMS study the Mississippi House Bill 1965 that established the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program and Commission for the purpose of recruiting and training qualified persons to practice medicine in rural areas of the state and also provided a mechanism for providing financial assistance for these students; and be it further

**RESOLVED:** That MSMS investigate the possibility of introducing a bill similar to Mississippi House Bill 1965 that established the Mississippi Rural Physicians Scholarship Program and Commission for the purpose of recruiting and training qualified persons to practice medicine in rural areas of the state and also provided a mechanism for providing financial assistance for these students.

---

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