

RESOLUTION 68-08A

Title: Non-Physicians Being Called Doctor
Introduced by: Suresh Anne, MD, for the Genesee County Delegation
Original Author: Suresh Anne, MD
Referred to: Reference Committee C
House Action: Adopted as Amended

Whereas, patients attach significance to the titles used by health professionals, and

Whereas, the nomenclature used by some health professions can be confusing or misleading, and

Whereas, unlike medicine, which standardized nearly all facets of medical education via the Flexner report in 1913, other professionals have relied on legislative and self-imposed inflation to their scope of practice, and

Whereas, the growing trend among non-physician providers is to offer their degrees at a doctoral level in order to justify reference to that group of professionals as “doctor,” and

Whereas, many of these doctoral level programs do not require a significant amount of additional training; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS disseminate information to hospitals across the state asking them to differentiate physicians and allied health professionals upon whom the title doctor has been conferred by merit of degree; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS ask hospitals across the state to differentiate with badges and with other identifiers for their staff so the patients are not confused by doctors of medicine or osteopathy verses PhD and other types of doctors, all of whom may be practicing in the hospital setting.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE