

RESOLUTION 95-08A

Title: Spectacles in Monocular Patients

Introduced by: Theresa M. Cooney, MD, for the Michigan College of Eye Physicians and Surgeons

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Referred to: Reference Committee E

House Action: Adopted

Whereas, amblyopia has been found to be a leading cause of unilateral blindness in adults according to the article “The prevalence and causes of bilateral and unilateral blindness in an elderly urban Danish population,” the Copenhagen City Eye Study (Acta Ophthalmologica Scandinavica 2001: 79: 441-9), and

Whereas, the lifetime risk of bilateral visual impairment is nearly doubled in patients with pre-existing amblyopia according to the article “Risk of bilateral visual impairment in individuals with amblyopia: The Rotterdam study” (British J Ophthalmology 2007: 91: 1450-1), and

Whereas, the quality of life, including the ability to drive and continue gainful employment, is significantly decreased in people who have developed bilateral vision impairment following loss of vision in their previously normal eye according to the article “Risks, causes, and outcomes of visual impairment after loss of vision in the non-amblyopic eye: a population based study” (the Lancet 2002: 360: 597-602); therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS support the Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons in promoting legislation that would encourage the use of spectacles and protective eyewear for children and adults with permanent monocular vision impairment from amblyopia or other causes; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS and the Michigan Society of Eye Physicians and Surgeons advocate for public financing for children and adults with permanent monocular visual impairment who can not afford spectacles and protective eyewear.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE