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3 **Title: Interpreter and Payment Responsibilities**  
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5 **Introduced by: Domenic R. Federico, MD, for the Kent County Delegation**  
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7 **Original Author: Elizabeth H. Henry, MD**  
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9 **Referred to: Reference Committee A**  
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11 **House Action: Adopted as Amended**

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14 **Whereas, communication between a patient and physician is mandatory**  
15 **for good medical care, and**

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17 **Whereas, the number of residents of the U.S. not speaking English is**  
18 **rapidly increasing, and**

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20 **Whereas, it is the policy of the medical care system that the physician**  
21 **rendering care be responsible for providing and paying for the interpreter, and**

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23 **Whereas, the interpreter service set their fees and demand rapid**  
24 **payment, and**

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26 **Whereas, the fees for interpretation service often cost more than the**  
27 **physician is paid for his or her services, and**

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29 **Whereas, physicians who cover the emergency room as required by the**  
30 **hospital often accept patients who have no insurance, and**

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32 **Whereas, once these physicians see these patients in the emergency**  
33 **room, they are then required to offer follow-up treatment, and**

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35 **Whereas, many of these patients do not speak English, so that the**  
36 **physician then not only ends up giving unreimbursed medical care, but also**  
37 **ends up paying for the interpreter, and**

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39 **Whereas, hospitals have relationships with interpretation service**  
40 **companies and because of these relationships with these companies they**  
41 **should be able to negotiate fees at a more favorable rate; therefore be it**

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43 **RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the AMA ask the AMA to**  
44 **study the feasibility of requiring hospitals to provide and pay for interpreter**  
45 **services for the follow-up care of patients that physicians are required to accept**  
46 **as a result of that patient’s emergency room visit.**

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