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3 **Title: No Medical Marihuana for Glaucoma**  
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5 **Introduced By: Theresa M. Cooney, MD, for the Michigan Society of Eye**  
6 **Physicians and Surgeons**  
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8 **Original Authors: Theresa M. Cooney, MD, Joshua Stein, MD, and**  
9 **Patrick J. Droste, MD**  
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11 **Referred to: Reference Committee B**  
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13 **House Action: Adopted**  
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16 **Whereas, state ballot Proposal 1 of 2008, known as the Michigan**  
17 **Medical Marihuana Act, allows for the usage of prescribed marijuana for**  
18 **“treating or alleviating the pain, nausea, and other symptoms associated with**  
19 **a variety of debilitating medical conditions,” and**  
20

21 **Whereas, state ballot Proposal 1 of 2008, defines a debilitating medical**  
22 **condition as one that produces one or more of the following: “cachexia or**  
23 **wasting syndrome; severe and chronic pain; severe nausea; seizures; or**  
24 **severe and persistent muscle spasms,” and**  
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26 **Whereas, state ballot Proposal 1 of 2008, inaccurately classifies**  
27 **glaucoma as a debilitating medical condition according to the above listed**  
28 **definition, and**  
29

30 **Whereas, narrow or closed angle glaucoma is an acute medical**  
31 **condition with sudden onset, typically lasting only hours to a few days,**  
32 **causing pain and/or nausea due to elevated intraocular pressures, and once**  
33 **effective pharmaceutical treatment is begun, no longer causes the symptoms**  
34 **that would be consistent with a debilitating medical condition as defined by**  
35 **state Proposal 1 of 2008, and**  
36

37 **Whereas, chronic open angle glaucoma is a chronic medical condition**  
38 **that is generally painless and though vision threatening, is a slowly or non-**  
39 **progressive medical disease for which there are pharmaceutical, medical, and**  
40 **surgical treatments (typically eye drops already registered with the United**  
41 **States Food and Drug Administration) that have long-term, proven efficacy (if**  
42 **taken as prescribed) whose side effects are generally known to be**  
43 **considerably more mild than those associated with high-dose marijuana**  
44 **usage, and**  
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46 **Whereas, to achieve anti-glaucoma related effects associated with**  
47 **medical marijuana use, the drug must be used at a high dose that can be**  
48 **associated with considerable and significant side effects, including, but not**  
49 **limited to, mind alteration and dangerously low blood pressure, and**

50           Whereas, the beneficial effects of high-dose medical marijuana use are  
51 short-lived, only three to four hours, meaning that maintaining a lowered  
52 intraocular pressure around the clock would require that it be smoked every  
53 three hours to possibly achieve long-term treatment benefit<sup>1</sup>, and  
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55           Whereas, the Institute of Medicine, the National Eye Institute, the  
56 American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Glaucoma Society, and  
57 the American Medical Association, based on the best scientific evidence  
58 available, do not support the use of medical marijuana for patients with  
59 glaucoma; therefore be it  
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61           **RESOLVED:** That MSMS pursue legislation that would remove  
62 glaucoma as an appropriate indication for medical marijuana usage from the  
63 Michigan Medical Marihuana Act.  
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66           **WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE**

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<sup>1</sup> Jampel H. American Glaucoma Society Position Statement: Marijuana and the Treatment of Glaucoma. *J Glaucoma*. 2010; 19(2):75-76.