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3 **Title: Removal of “Other” as a Valid Reason for an Immunization**
4 **Waiver**

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6 **Introduced by: Alice Penrose, MD, for the Washtenaw County Delegation**

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8 **Original Author: Alice Penrose, MD**

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10 **Referred to: Reference Committee D**

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12 **House Action: Approved**
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15 **Whereas, Michigan only allowed medical and religious waivers to**
16 **required childhood immunizations prior to 1978, and**

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18 **Whereas, Michigan is one of only 19 states which allow waivers other**
19 **than for medical or religious reasons¹, and**

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21 **Whereas, Michigan had a total five-year-old vaccine exemption rate of**
22 **5.9% in the 2012-2013 school year, compared to 1.8% for the United States as a**
23 **whole², and**

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25 **Whereas, many vaccine preventable illnesses are still common around**
26 **the world, where they cause significant morbidity and mortality, and**

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28 **Whereas, foreign travel is a common phenomenon, both for Michigan**
29 **residents going outside the country, and foreigners visiting Michigan, making**
30 **vaccine preventable diseases just a plane ride away, and**

31
32 **Whereas, research shows that areas with higher vaccine waiver rates**
33 **have increased frequency of vaccine preventable illnesses, and**

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35 **Whereas, 79% of the 2012 Michigan 6th grade vaccine waivers were for**
36 **reasons “other” than medical or religious, therefore be it**

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38 **RESOLVED: That MSMS advocate for the removal of the provision in the**
39 **Michigan Public Health Code that recognizes “other” as a valid reason for an**
40 **immunization waiver.**

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

¹ <http://www.ncsl.org/research/health/school-immunization-exemption-state-laws.aspx>

² <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6230a3.htm>