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3 **Title: Legislative Conflict of Interest Disclosure and Transparency**
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5 **Introduced by: Domenic R. Federico, MD, for the Kent County Delegation**
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7 **Original Author: Jayne E. Courts, MD**
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9 **Referred to: Reference Committee B**
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11 **House Action: Approved as Amended**
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14 **Whereas, all of us are influenced by various factors, including but not**
15 **limited to, personal relationships, financial concerns, legal concerns, emotions,**
16 **and ethics (i.e., we are human), and**
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18 **Whereas, these influences can provide both positive and negative**
19 **influences on our behavior and may pose a conflict of interest from some**
20 **perspectives, and**
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22 **Whereas, physicians have been asked to disclose potential conflicts of**
23 **interest - - “personal, professional, or financial conflicts of interest of which**
24 **they are reasonably aware, which could foreseeably result in a conflict of**
25 **interest with their activities or responsibilities”¹ - - to provide improved**
26 **transparency and ethics, and**
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28 **Whereas, state legislators generate new legislation based on multiple**
29 **influences (as they are human, too), encouraging support from voting**
30 **constituents, opinion leaders, business owners, and other legislators, and**
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32 **Whereas, disclosure of potential conflicts of interest would help clarify**
33 **the truth about how and why proposed legislation is devised and promoted;**
34 **therefore be it**
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36 **RESOLVED: That MSMS work with the Michigan legislature to encourage**
37 **voluntary public disclosure of potential conflicts of interest - - personal,**
38 **professional, and financial - - by all Michigan legislators to improve**
39 **transparency and ethics in the state of Michigan.**
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41 **WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE**
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¹ AMA policy H-235.970 and MSMS Policy, page 9 of the MSMS Policy Manual, as follows: House of Delegates Conflict of Interest Policy (from MSMS Policy Manual, page 9): All members of the Michigan State Medical Society House of Delegates should declare any conflict of interest to the House of Delegates and its Reference Committees prior to testimony. The MSMS House of Delegates considers a potential conflict of interest to exist when a Delegate, Alternate Delegate, other physician member or non-member testifying on the floor of the House of Delegate or in Reference Committee has a relationship, or engages in any activity, or has any personal financial or commercial interest that might impair his or her independence or judgment or inappropriately influence his or her decisions or actions concerning MSMS matters (Board Action Report #4, 2000 HOD, re Res10-HOD99A and Res13-HOD99A).