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3 Title: Childhood Immunization Waivers
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5 Introduced by: Meena Ramani, MD, the Saginaw County Delegation
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7 Original Author: Louis L. Constan, MD
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9 Referred to: Reference Committee D
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11 House Action: **APPROVED AS AMENDED**
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14 Whereas, immunization of the population has been a stunning achievement in public
15 health, saving millions of lives, and
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17 Whereas, the requirement that children have immunizations before they enter school
18 has been a convenient and effective method of encouraging immunizations, and
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20 Whereas, immunization rates have been declining nationally, and especially in the
21 state of Michigan for the last decade, and
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23 Whereas, Michigan has had mini epidemics of mumps, measles, and pertussis, most
24 recently in Grand Traverse and Leelanau counties, and
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26 Whereas, the state waiver system is clearly partly to blame for this problem, and
27 Michigan is now the fourth worst state in the nation for parents who sign waivers for their
28 children to attend school without being immunized, and
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30 Whereas, although the immunization waiver system was designed to accommodate
31 parents of children who have religious objections to immunizations, this exemption has
32 always been subject to abuse, and there is now anecdotal evidence from school personnel
33 that parents who are negligent about getting their children immunized are using the waivers
34 as a way to avoid the bother and expense of the immunizations, and
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36 Whereas, the religious exemption has always been a problem for medical
37 professionals because of the issue of herd immunity, when one child is not immunized, it
38 increases the chance of another child who has been immunized getting the disease, and
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40 Whereas, in matters of public health, particularly where children are concerned, there
41 seems little logic in letting parents, whatever their objections to immunizations, put their and
42 other's children at risk; therefore be it
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44 **RESOLVED:** That MSMS oppose immunization waivers for childhood immunizations
45 based on non-medical exemptions; and be it further
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47 **RESOLVED:** That MSMS seek legislation to amend Michigan's statute pertaining to
48 childhood immunizations to no longer allow non-medical immunization waivers.
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