

RESOLUTION 69-15

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2  
3 Title: Improving Legislative Transparency  
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5 Introduced by: James Szocik, MD, for the Washtenaw County Delegation  
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7 Original Author: James Szocik, 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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13  
14 Whereas, legislation affecting medicine has become increasingly complex and  
15 numerous over the years, and

16  
17 Whereas, many non-elected bureaucracies such as the Centers for Medicare and  
18 Medicaid Services create rules that carry the force of law, and

19  
20 Whereas, many of these laws and regulations are created in obscure committees, with  
21 little transparency as to creation or commentary<sup>1</sup>, and

22  
23 Whereas, physicians are required to document their interactions in a medical record  
24 and are legally responsible for the review of multiple studies done by others as well as the  
25 truthfulness of their own documentation, and

26  
27 Whereas, legislators and bureaucrats are protected from scrutiny by lack of  
28 transparency, and

29  
30 Whereas, the Open States project of the Sunlight Foundation<sup>2</sup> only rates Michigan a  
31 “C” grade<sup>3</sup> on transparency, and

32  
33 Whereas, conferences have been held that focus on legislative data and  
34 transparency<sup>4</sup>; therefore be it

35  
36 RESOLVED: That MSMS support and advocate for further transparency in the  
37 legislative process, including the source of legislation, language revisions, and each  
38 representative’s vote.  
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41 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: None

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.publicintegrity.org/2012/03/19/8423/grading-nation-how-accountable-your-state>

<sup>2</sup> <http://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2013/03/11/openstates-report-card/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://openstates.org/reportcard/#criteria>

<sup>4</sup> <https://cha.house.gov/2014-legislative-data-and-transparency-conference>