

RESOLUTION 71-15

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3 Title: Discouraging the Proliferation of "Concierge Medicine"
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5 Introduced by: Cheryl Farmer, MD
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7 Original Author: Cheryl Farmer, MD
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9 Referred to: Reference Committee A
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11 House Action: **DISAPPROVED**
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14 Whereas, medical school is a heavily taxpayer funded educational function, and

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16 Whereas, the current stellar reputation of the members of the medical profession is in
17 large part due to the historic expectation and substantive reality that physicians will care for all
18 ill people regardless of their social, financial, or combat status, and

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20 Whereas, there is a looming shortage of primary care physicians on the horizon due to
21 ongoing retirements of physicians in the "baby boomer" demographic, increasing medical
22 needs in this same demographic, increasing overall population size and the persistent
23 underfunding of primary care compared to subspecialty medicine, and

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25 Whereas, physicians who choose to practice "concierge medicine" will effectively be
26 refusing to see any patients who are poor and will generally carry a far smaller patient
27 practice load than has traditionally been the case, exacerbating the shortage of primary care
28 physicians for all patients but especially for the poor, and

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30 Whereas, while this choice may appear to be financially beneficial for some physicians
31 in the short run, in the long run it would neither be good for the reputation of those in the
32 medical profession nor for society as a whole because it would lead to a two-tiered system,
33 and

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35 Whereas, our society also values free enterprise; therefore be it

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37 RESOLVED: That MSMS oppose "Concierge Medicine" and work with the medical
38 schools in Michigan to formalize what had previously been an implied social contract by
39 requiring medical students to enter into a contract to treat all patients regardless of their
40 social, financial or combat status once they begin practice and to repay the full costs of their
41 taxpayer subsidized education plus a penalty if they later restrict access to their practices;
42 and be it further

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44 RESOLVED: That the American Medical Association oppose "Concierge Medicine"
45 and advocate that all federation members work with their respective medical schools to
46 formalize what had previously been an implied social contract by requiring medical students
47 to enter into a contract to treat all patients regardless of their social, financial or combat status
48 once they begin practice and to repay the full costs of their taxpayer subsidized education
49 plus a penalty if they later restrict access to their practices.
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52 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: None