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Title: Reverse Onus in the Manufacture and Use of Chemicals
Introduced by: Gerald D. Natzke, Jr., DO, for the Genesee County Delegation
Original Author: Gerald D. Natzke, Jr., DO
Referred to: Reaffirmation Calendar
House Action: **REAFFIRM**

Whereas, despite passage of Board Action Report #6 of 2006 by the MSMS House of Delegates, Michigan and the Great Lakes region continue to suffer significant chemical contamination as a result of past manufacturing practices and inadequate business and governmental stewardship, and

Whereas, this historic contamination, particularly by bio-accumulative, persistent chemicals continues to affect the environment and human health, and

Whereas, some chemical contaminants, including pesticides and herbicides in the Great Lakes ecosystem have been associated with developmental delays and neurological impairments in children and other human health effects, and

Whereas, there is continuing concern about the potential environmental and human health impacts of chemicals still in common use, and

Whereas, exposure of the environment and human health to chemicals that are later found to have significant health impacts can result in irreversible health problems in those exposed, as well as significant costs to industry and government for clean-up, and

Whereas, the State of Michigan has a responsibility to exercise leadership in protection of the Great Lakes ecosystem by virtue of its geographic position at the heart of the Great Lakes basin and the linkage between the health of the lakes and the health of Michigan; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS reaffirm its commitment to urge the State of Michigan to adopt and advocate policies that prevent avoidable harm to the environment and human health by placing the burden of proof, where there is scientific evidence of harm, for the safety of chemicals on those manufacturing, handling, importing, or proposing to introduce in to commerce such chemicals prior to their use; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our AMA to reaffirm its commitment to urge the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt and advocate policies that prevent avoidable harm to the environment and human health by placing the burden of proof, where there is scientific evidence of harm, for the safety of

48 chemicals on those manufacturing, handling, importing, or proposing to introduce into
49 commerce such chemicals prior to their use; and be it further

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51 RESOLVED: That MSMS reaffirm its commitment to urge the State of Michigan to adopt
52 and advocate policies based on the precautionary principle where there is scientific evidence of
53 harm, which holds that when an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the
54 environment, precautionary measures should be taken. The burden of proof should be on the
55 user or producer of a hazardous chemical or product to convince government authorities that
56 the product does not deserve to be restricted and that it is the least-damaging alternative
57 available; and be it further

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59 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA)
60 ask our AMA to continue to urge the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt and advocate
61 policies based on the precautionary principle where there is scientific evidence of harm, which
62 holds that when an activity raises threats of harm to human health or the environment,
63 precautionary measures should be taken. The burden of proof should be on the user of
64 producer or a hazardous chemical or product to convince government authorities that the
65 product does not deserve to be restricted and that it is the least damaging alternative available,
66 and be it further

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68 RESOLVED: That MSMS supports the obligation of private entities that are
69 manufacturing, handling, importing, or proposing to introduce into commerce chemicals that
70 may be hazardous to human health or the environment to implement steps and precautions
71 that are necessary to prevent or minimize damage to human health or the environment
72 including carefully investigating the composition of the product and its properties from the
73 perspective of health and environmental protection and clearly labeling products with data of
74 importance from the point of view of protecting health and the environment; and be it further

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76 RESOLVED: That MSMS reaffirm its commitment to urge the State of Michigan to adopt
77 policies discouraging use of substances that are persistent and liable to bio-accumulate, and
78 advocate adoption of federal laws and policies that ban the use of such substances, and be it
79 further

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81 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA)
82 ask our AMA to reaffirm its commitment to urge the Environmental Protection Agency to adopt
83 policies discouraging use of substances that are persistent and liable to bio-accumulate, and
84 advocate adoption of federal laws and policies that ban the use of such substances.

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE