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Title: Ending Non-Medical Exemptions for Immunization in Michigan

Introduced by: Charles J. Barone, II, MD, for the Wayne County Delegation

Original Author: Charles J. Barone, II, MD

Referred to: Reaffirmation Calendar

House Action: **REAFFIRM**

Whereas, vaccines have been proven safe and effective in preventing many serious contagious diseases including polio, measles, and pertussis, and

Whereas, immunization rates above 90 percent are necessary to establish herd immunity which prevents the spread of outbreaks and protects vulnerable people who cannot be vaccinated from vaccine-preventable diseases, and

Whereas, every state has enacted laws requiring immunization at school entry to protect both students and communities from preventable infections, and

Whereas, both the success of vaccines in eliminating diseases such as polio and measles in the US have made parents inexperienced with the severity of these diseases and the rapid spread of vaccine misinformation has increased vaccine hesitancy among parents, and

Whereas, recent outbreaks of pertussis, measles, and varicella in Michigan and other parts of the USA are attributed to clusters of unvaccinated people and high rates of immunization exemptions, and

Whereas, hospitalizations and deaths from vaccine-preventable infections are rising and many parents are demanding legislators act so their children will not be exposed to preventable infections, and

Whereas, the American Medical Association (AMA) has newly adopted Policy (H-440.970) that states:

Our AMA: 1. "Supports the immunization recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for all individuals without medical contraindications 2. Supports Legislation eliminating nonmedical exemptions from immunization 3. Encourages state medical associations to seek removal of nonmedical exemptions in statutes requiring mandatory immunization, including for child care and school attendance 4. Encourages physicians to grant vaccine exemption requests only when medical contraindications are present 5. Encourages state and local medical associations to work with public health officials to develop contingency plans for controlling outbreaks in medically-exempt populations and to intensify efforts to achieve high immunization rates in communities where nonmedical exemptions are common 6. Recommends that states have in place: a. An established

48 mechanism, which includes the involvement of qualified public health physicians, of
49 determining which vaccines will be mandatory for admission to school and other identified
50 public venues (based on recommendations of the ACIP) b. Policies that permit immunization
51 exemptions for medical reasons only"; therefore be it

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53 RESOLVED: That MSMS advocate for state legislation to amend the Public Health Code
54 to eliminate non-medical exemptions from immunization for childcare and school attendance in
55 state statutes; and be it further

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57 RESOLVED: That MSMS work with the Michigan Department of Health and Human
58 Services to intensify efforts to achieve high immunization rates in communities where non-
59 medical exemptions are common until such time as non-medical waivers are eliminated.

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62 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE