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Title: Public Guardians for Incapacitated Patients

Introduced by: Domenic Federico, MD, for the Kent County Delegation

Original Author: Michelle M. Condon, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee D

House Action: **APPROVE**

Whereas, many patients do not have family or friends to serve as guardians in situations requiring a trusted advocate to serve as a guardian in times of incapacitation, and

Whereas, patients have in the past been able to rely upon public guardians to serve in the role to authorize and consent to treatment or medications while under the care of a physician, and

Whereas, public guardians agree to represent vulnerable individuals in important matters, such as health care, as a 24 hours per day, seven days per week commitment for communication in the role of advocate or to provide consent, and

Whereas, the State of Michigan has recently cut funding for public guardians for disenfranchised people, and

Whereas, treatment for these people is interrupted and/or delayed as there is no advocate, family or close friends to provide consent for treatment and/or medications, thus causing delays for hospital staff and potentially, effecting the patient’s medical status; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS advocate that the State of Michigan restore funding for public guardians to serve in this valuable capacity in order to improve the health and treatment for vulnerable patients in times of incapacitation.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE