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Title: Opioid Overdose Deaths and Naloxone Co-Prescribing

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

Original Author: Jayne Courts, MD, Sandra Dettmann, MD, and Cara Poland, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee B

House Action: **APPROVE**

Whereas, there has been a four-fold increase in the number of opioid prescriptions written in the United States and a parallel four-fold increase in the number of opioid overdose deaths since 1999¹, and

Whereas, there are 44 people dying per day due to drug overdoses in this country, approximately one and a half times more deaths due to drug overdoses than deaths from motor vehicle accidents², and

Whereas, opioid use has been declared a national epidemic by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and

Whereas, while the death rate from heroin overdoses increased 26 percent, the death rate from synthetic opioid overdoses increased 80 percent since 1999³, and

Whereas, Michigan had a 13.2 percent increase in the rate of drug overdose deaths between 2013-2014⁴, and

Whereas, the use of naloxone (Narcan), an opioid antagonist, is a safe, effective antidote for opioid overdose available in three forms – autoinjector, intramuscular, and nasal, and

Whereas, increased availability and distribution of naloxone has been shown to decrease the rate of opioid overdose deaths⁵, and

Whereas, naloxone is not a controlled substance and may be prescribed by any health care provider with prescribing privileges, and

Whereas, in October 2014, legislation (House Bill 5407) was passed in Michigan that protects physicians from malpractice risk with prescribing naloxone⁶, and

Whereas, first responders and law enforcement officials have been trained to administer naloxone to any unresponsive individual due to the low risk of an adverse event from use of naloxone; therefore be it

47 RESOLVED: That MSMS provide education for physicians about opioid overdose death
48 rates and the importance of co-prescription of naloxone for any narcotic prescription; and be it
49 further

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51 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA)
52 support the AMA's efforts and policies to expand the access and use of naloxone to prevent
53 opioid-related overdose deaths.

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56 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

¹ Prescription Drug Overdose Data. Centers for Disease Control, October 16, 2015. Accessed on-line on 2/29/2016 at <http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data/overdose.html>.

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Walley et al. BMJ, 2013; 346: f174.

⁶ House Bill No. 5407, Act No. 311, Public Acts of 2014, approved by the Governor on October 13, 2014, filed with the Secretary of State on October 14, 2014, effective date of October 14, 2014.