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Title: Opioid Overdose Deaths and Continuing Medical Education for Opioid 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: **AMEND**

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, most opioid overdose deaths are due to legally prescribed opioids³, and

Whereas, most physicians have not received formal training in the appropriate use of opioids and the treatment of chronic pain, and

Whereas, chronic opioid therapy (greater than twelve weeks) has not been shown to be efficacious in the treatment of non-cancer-related pain⁴; therefore be it

RESOLVED That MSMS supports education to encourage physicians and other health care providers to co-prescribe naloxone when prescribing opiates.

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 Opioids Drive Continued Increase In Drug Overdose Deaths. Centers for Disease Control, 2013. Accessed on-line on 2/29/2016 at http://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2013/p0220_drug_overdose_deaths.html. (3) ACP?

⁴ Chou R, et al. The Effectiveness and Risks of Long-term Opioid Therapy for Chronic Pain: A Systematic Review for a National Institutes of Health Pathways to Prevention Workshop. *Annals Intern Med*, 2015;162:276-286.