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3 Title: Medicare Cards and Identity Theft
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5 Introduced by: Robert Levine, MD, for the Oakland County Delegation
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7 Original Author: Robert Levine, MD
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9 Referred to: Reference Committee A
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11 House Action: **DISAPPROVE**
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14 Whereas, a social security number can be the master key for identity theft, and

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16 Whereas, the Social Security Administration in SSA Publication No. 05-10064 states, "Keep your
17 card and any other document that shows your Social Security number in a safe place. DO NOT
18 routinely carry your card or other documents that display your number," and

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20 Whereas, due to identify theft risks, financial security experts recommend that one not carry
21 Social Security cards in one's wallet or purse, and

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23 Whereas, Medicare cards contain an individual's social security numbers, and

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25 Whereas, individuals with Medicare are required to present their Medicare card to obtain
26 health care, and

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28 Whereas, federal Legislation has been signed requiring the moderation of Medicare cards with
29 the elimination of Social Security numbers from the cards; therefore be it

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31 RESOLVED: That MSMS adopt policy in support of replacing the social security number on
32 Medicare identification cards with a specific Medicare identification membership number; and be it
33 further

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35 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our
36 AMA to adopt policy in support of replacing the social security number of Medicare identification
37 cards with a specific Medicare identification membership number; and be it further

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39 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our
40 AMA to petition and/or lobby the appropriate federal agency or US Congress to expedite the issuance
41 of new Medicare cards without Social Security numbers and with a specific Medicare identification
42 membership number; and be it further

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44 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our
45 AMA to work with other stakeholder organizations such as the AARP to encourage the federal
46 government to expedite the issuance of new Medicare cards without Social Security numbers and
47 with a specific Medicare identification membership number.
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50 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

Relevant AMA Policy:**HIPAA Law And Regulations D-190.989**

(1) Our AMA shall continue to aggressively pursue modification of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule to remove burdensome regulations that could interfere with efficient patient care.

(2) If satisfactory modification to the HIPAA Privacy Rule is not obtained, our AMA shall aggressively pursue appropriate legislative and/or legal relief to prevent implementation of the HIPAA Privacy Rule.

(3) Our AMA shall continue to oppose the creation or use of any unique patient identification number, including the Social Security number, as it might permit unfettered access by governmental agencies or other entities to confidential patient information.

(4) Our AMA shall immediately begin working with the appropriate parties and trade groups to explore ways to help offset the costs of implementing the changes required by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act so as to reduce the fiscal burden on physicians.

Identity Fraud H-190.963

Our AMA policy is to discourage the use of Social Security numbers to identify insureds, patients, and physicians, except in those situations where the use of these numbers is required by law and/or regulation.