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Title: Elderly Physicians - Professional Risk and Prescriptions  
Introduced by: Charles J. Barone II, MD, for the Wayne County Delegation  
Original Author: Charles J. Barone II, MD  
Referred to: Reference Committee E  
House Action: **DISAPPROVE**

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Whereas, about one in four US physicians is older than 65, and the number of physicians in this age bracket is estimated to more than quadruple between 1975 and 2031, and

Whereas, the transition for elderly physicians is not easy and may require the guidance and support of family and peers in the community, and

Whereas, an increasing number of elderly physicians are subjected to licensing sanctions and fines for drug diversion and opioid over-prescribing, and

Whereas, elderly physicians facing financial hardship may be susceptible to scams from nefarious health clinic administrators that inappropriately utilize the physician’s license, and

Whereas, these physicians are then subject to disciplinary actions and punitive financial fines when they are investigated, and

Whereas, this growing problem has not been studied and has raised significant patient/public safety concerns about cognitive dysfunction in aging physicians and their performance as clinicians; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS work with the American Medical Association to prepare a "white paper" on elderly physicians and potential professional risk in relation to issues including prescribing habits and susceptibility to risk and abuse by nefarious individuals; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our AMA to expand the senior physician section benefit offerings to include education on the importance of safe-guarding their medical license from abuse by nefarious individuals who seek to take advantage of unsuspecting physicians by using their licensure in a manner that fosters opioid prescription drug abuse by the general public; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS work with the Michigan Board of Medicine and the Attorney General’s office to set up a hotline where physicians at-risk of exploitation by nefarious individuals seeking to foster opioid prescription drug abuse by the general public can report and/or discuss a potential abuse situation.

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE