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Title: Prohibit Production and Sales of "Keepsake" Ultrasounds
Introduced by: Cheryl Farmer, MD, for the Washtenaw County Delegation
Original Author: Cheryl Farmer, MD
Referred to: Reference Committee E
House Action: **AMEND**

Whereas, ultrasound equipment was developed for medical purposes, including the evaluation of a fetus in utero for purposes of assessing gestational age and developmental anomalies, and

Whereas, medical personnel require considerable training to be able to produce and interpret quality ultrasound images while minimizing risk and discomfort to the patient, and

Whereas, the ultrasound images of fetuses in utero produced by said trained medical personnel are intended to be evaluated by radiologists and other appropriate medical specialists (i.e., obstetricians) so that no abnormality is overlooked, and

Whereas, ultrasound devices are now being used by untrained non-medical personnel to produce fetal images in malls and other non-medical retail spaces for sale to pregnant women as "keepsakes," and

Whereas, this direct-to-consumer marketing of a non-medical use of medical equipment fails to adequately inform the pregnant consumer of the possibility that their ultrasound could demonstrate a fetal abnormality, and

Whereas, most contracts signed prior to these non-medical ultrasounds contain exculpatory language, do not confirm whether the consumer has a physician and do not suggest follow up with their physician if there are any concerns, and

Whereas, the US Food and Drug Administration and ultrasound equipment manufacturers both recommend against the entertainment use of ultrasound equipment, and

Whereas, the non-medical personnel who are performing these "keepsake" ultrasounds are not required to be trained or otherwise regulated under state law, as are medically trained personnel and physicians, and

Whereas, a pregnant woman purchasing a "keepsake" ultrasound may assume that all is well when it is not, because neither they nor the non-medical person producing the ultrasound knows how to read it, or may incorrectly assume that having had this non-medical ultrasound obviates the need to see an obstetrician for a medical ultrasound; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS advocate with the Michigan Legislature that the use of ultrasound equipment for non-medical purposes is potentially dangerous to a woman and her fetus and should be prohibited.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

Sources:
1. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/26863850>
2. <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0098858815622191>