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Title: Barriers to Pain Medication for Palliative Care and Hospice Patients

Introduced by: Lee P. Begrow, DO, for the Kent County Delegation

Original Author: Jayne Courts, MD

Referred to: Reference Committee B

House Action: APPROVED AS AMENDED

Whereas, legislation pertaining to bona fide prescriber-patient relationships (Public Acts 247 of 2017), mandatory queries of the Michigan Automatic Prescription System (Public Act 248 of 2017, and limits on the quantity of opioids prescribed to treat acute pain (Public Act 251 of 2017) was enacted to help address opioid misuse and diversion, and

Whereas, exceptions for palliative care and hospice patients are not included in these Public Acts, and

Whereas, these Public Acts may adversely affect the ability of these patients to obtain appropriate pain medication in a timely manner; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS work with the Michigan Hospice and Palliative Care Association and with Michigan legislators to amend each of the recently passed opioid laws to include legal exemptions to the provisions within these statutes when prescribing controlled substances for active malignancy and/or hospice patients as well as those receiving palliative care.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: None

Relevant MSMS Policy:

Appropriate End of Life Therapy

MSMS will continue to work at all levels for improved pain management and symptom control.
 MSMS will continue education on recognition of depression and its adequate therapy.
 MSMS will continue to promote advance directives.
 MSMS will continue support for hospice including education about hospice and the use of hospice care. (Res94-97A)

Oppose Legislative Interference in Patient/Physician Relationship

MSMS opposes any legislation passed in the area of assisted suicide that interferes with the proper patient/physician relationship, particularly as such legislation relates to pain control and the terminally ill, so that physicians may continue to provide compassionate care to their patients in accordance with principles of medical care and ethics. (Res70-93A)