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Title: Voluntary Legislator Conflict of Interest Disclosure  
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**

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Whereas, a resolution titled, "Truth in Lawmaking – In Pursuit of Full Disclosure with Resultant Transparency," was introduced and successfully passed the MSMS House of Delegates in 2014, and

Whereas, all of us are influenced by various factors, including but not limited to, personal relationships, financial concerns, legal concerns, emotions, and ethics, and

Whereas, these influences can provide both positive and negative influences on our behavior and may pose a conflict of interest from some perspectives, and

Whereas, physicians have been asked to disclose potential conflicts of interest – "personal, professional, or financial conflicts of interest of which they are reasonably aware, which could foreseeably result in a conflict of interest with their activities or responsibilities"<sup>1</sup> - to provide improved transparency and ethics, and

Whereas, Delegates are encouraged to abide by MSMS policy, "House of Delegates Conflict of Interest," and

Whereas, state legislators generate new legislation based on multiple influences, encouraging support from voting constituents, opinion leaders, business owners, and other legislators, and

Whereas, disclosure of potential conflicts of interest would improve transparency and ethics in the Legislature and for the general public, and

Whereas, disclosure would help clarify how and why proposed legislation is devised and promoted; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS work with the Michigan Legislature to encourage voluntary public disclosure of potential conflicts of interest – personal, professional, and financial – by all Michigan legislators to improve transparency and ethics in the state of Michigan when deliberating on any legislation.

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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: None

**Relevant MSMS Policy:**

**Improving Legislative Transparency**

MSMS supports further transparency in the legislative process, including the source of legislation, language revisions, and each representative’s vote. (Res69-15)

**House of Delegates Conflict of Interest Policy**

All members of the Michigan State Medical Society House of Delegates should declare any conflict of interest to the House of Delegates and its Reference Committees prior to testimony. The MSMS House of Delegates considers a potential conflict of interest to exist when a Delegate, Alternate Delegate, other physician member or non-member testifying on the floor of the House of Delegate or in Reference Committee has a relationship, or engages in any activity, or has any personal financial or commercial interest that might impair his or her independence or judgment or inappropriately influence his or her decisions or actions concerning MSMS matters (Board Action Report #4, 2000 HOD, re Res10-HOD99A and Res13-HOD99A).

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<sup>1</sup> AMA Policy H-235.970