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Title: Opposition to Medicaid Work Requirements

Introduced by: Brent Oldham for the Medical Student Section

Original Authors: Shannon Paquette, Blake Sanford, Sam Schuiteman, and Shilpi Sharma

Referred to: Reference Committee B

House Action: **APPROVED**

Whereas, in June 2018, despite calls to the Governor from organizations such as the American Heart Association, American Lung Association and Cancer Action Network for a veto, legislation was signed into law requiring Healthy Michigan beneficiaries to work at least 80 hours per month in a job, job training program, internship, volunteer position, or receive substance abuse treatment¹, and

Whereas, the AMA passed a resolution in 2018 opposing work requirements for Medicaid beneficiaries, and

Whereas, according to the nonpartisan Michigan House Fiscal Agency, five to 10 percent of Healthy Michigan enrollees are expected to drop or be forced out of their coverage as a result of this law¹, and

Whereas, 60.1 percent of Healthy Michigan Plan beneficiaries work or are homemakers, in school, or retired and 11.2 percent report being unable to work², and

Whereas, since enrolling, 47.8 percent of Healthy Michigan Plan beneficiaries reported their physical health had improved, 38.2 percent reported their mental health had improved, and 69.4 percent of employed beneficiaries reported that having the plan helped them to do a better job at work², and

Whereas, more than half of Healthy Michigan Plan beneficiaries agreed that having health care coverage made them better able to look for a job and over a third of employed beneficiaries agreed, or agreed that having coverage helped them get a better job², and

Whereas, of the third of Healthy Michigan beneficiaries with a health condition that prevents them from working, only 43 percent received Social Security Income (SSI) which would exempt them from work requirements³, and

Whereas, it is likely that much of the burden of ensuring compliance with Medicaid work requirements will fall on physicians, creating extra administrative work and ethical conflicts⁴, and

Whereas, in 2018 a federal court voided the implementation of Medicaid work requirements in Kentucky for not upholding Medicaid’s primary goal of providing affordable healthcare coverage⁵; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS opposes work requirements as a criterion for Medicaid eligibility.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: \$1,000 or more for costs related to the adoption of new or revised MSMS or AMA policy.

Relevant MSMS Policy:

Medicaid Expansion

MSMS supports the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. (Board-Jan13)
– Reaffirmed (Board-March 17)

Automatic and Affordable Health Insurance Coverage for All

MSMS supports affordable health insurance coverage for Americans. (Res41-01A)

Relevant AMA Policy:

Opposition to Medicaid Work Requirements H-290.961

Our AMA opposes work requirements as a criterion for Medicaid eligibility.

Medicaid and Efforts to Assure it Maintains its Role as a Safety Net H-290.986

The AMA supports the position that the Medicaid program maintain its role as a safety net for the nation's most vulnerable populations.

¹ Oosting, J. Snyder signs 80-hour Medicaid work requirement law. The Detroit News.

<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2018/06/22/michigan-medicaid-work-requirement-law/726538002/>. June 22, 2018. Accessed February 27, 2019.

² Tipirneni R, Kullgren JT, Ayanian JZ, Kieffer EC, Rosland AM, Chang T, Haggins AN, Clark SJ, Lee S, Solway E, Kirch MA. Changes in Health and Ability to Work Among Medicaid Expansion Enrollees: a Mixed Methods Study. J Gen Intern Med. 2018;1-9.

³ Tipirneni R, Goold SD, Ayanian JZ. Employment status and health characteristics of adults with expanded Medicaid coverage in Michigan. JAMA Intern Med. 2018;178:564-567.

⁴ Ayanian JZ, Tipirneni R, Goold SD. Mitigating the Risks of Medicaid Work Requirements. The New Engl J Med. 2018;379(9):803-805.

⁵ Musumeci, M. Explaining Stewart v. Azar: Implications of the Court's Decision on Kentucky's Medicaid Waiver. Henry J Kaiser Family Foundation. <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/explaining-stewart-v-azar-implications-of-the-courts-decision-on-kentuckys-medicaid-waiver>. July 2, 2018. Accessed February 27, 2019.