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Title: Medical and Dental Care for Prisoners
Introduced by: David Whalen, MD, for the Kent County Delegation
Original Author: Patrick J. Droste, MS, MD
Referred To: Reference Committee A
House Action: **APPROVED**

Whereas, prisoners in correctional facilities have the right to receive timely medical and dental care, and

Whereas, prisoners in correctional facilities frequently have medical and dental problems that are not addressed by prison authorities, and

Whereas, prisoners do not have internal prison advocates to support their quest for medical and/or dental care, and

Whereas, prisoners get charged for each request of medical or dental service and may not have the funds to pay for such visits, and

Whereas, prisoners have no recourse to request second opinion or specialty evaluation for unresolved medical or dental concerns, and

Whereas, family members of prisoners, serving as an advocate, find it difficult to facilitate appropriate medical care or obtain information regarding a prisoner’s condition(s), and

Whereas, prisoners are frequently transferred to multiple prison facilities throughout their sentence, which leads to lack of continuity of care; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That MSMS work with the Michigan Department of Corrections to establish viable and effective protocols to allow prisoners to present their medical concerns and receive timely responses to their request for medical and dental care; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS support the development of a Review Board, composed of correctional officials, medical professionals such as physicians, nurses, or physician assistants and prisoners, to review inmates concerns regarding medical and dental diagnosis and treatment.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: Resolutions requesting governmental advocacy - \$25,000+

STATEMENT OF URGENCY: We feel that the MSMS-HOD should hear and act on this resolution in 2021 and give it highest consideration, because prisoners are being denied timely and affordable

medical and dental care during their period of confinement. This neglect of care makes it more difficult for them to rehabilitate both inside the correction facilities and after their discharge.

Relevant MSMS Policy:

None

Relevant AMA Policy:

None

Source:

Kimberly Norris, MD, of Barry County