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3 Title: Use Term "Intellectual Disability" in Lieu of "Mental Retardation" in Academic
4 Texts, Published Literature, and Medical Education

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6 Introduced by: Mara Darian, for the Medical Student Section

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8 Original Author: Samantha Rea

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10 Referred To:

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12 House Action:
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15 Whereas, intellectual disability is defined as "a group of developmental conditions
16 characterized by significant impairment of cognitive functions, which are associated with limitations
17 of learning, adaptive behavior and skills," and

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19 Whereas, people with disabilities have experienced disproportionate burdens during the
20 COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to face disparities moving forward unless equitable solutions
21 are created, including consistent use of terminology that is nondiscriminatory, and

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23 Whereas, the term "mental retardation" is pejorative and stigmatizing, leading to poor
24 treatment of people with intellectual disabilities, less health care access, and poorer health,
25 employment, and quality of life outcomes, and

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27 Whereas, physicians are more likely to use the term "mental retardation" than occupational
28 therapists, physiotherapists, nurses, and social workers, and

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30 Whereas, the Department of Education implemented Rosa's Law to use the term
31 "intellectual disability" in federal legislation, and

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33 Whereas, the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental
34 Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5) replaced the diagnosis of "mental retardation" with "intellectual
35 disability" for childhood-onset neurodevelopmental disorders, and

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37 Whereas, the American Medical Association (AMA) already supports using the term
38 "intellectual disability" to replace "mental retardation" in clinical settings (H-70.912), and

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40 Whereas, the AMA Code of Style and American Psychological Association recommends
41 person-first language in scholarly writing and speaking, and

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43 Whereas, textbooks, course notes, and published literature in medical education should
44 reflect the same recommendations to encourage appropriate terminology at the earliest stages of
45 physician education as well as continuing medical education for practicing physicians; therefore be
46 it

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48 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask
49 our AMA to amend AMA policy H-70.912 by addition to read as follows:

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Our AMA recommends that physicians adopt the term “intellectual disability” instead of “mental retardation” in clinical settings, **academic texts, published literature, and medical education.**

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: Resolutions only requesting new or revised MSMS or AMA policy - \$500

Relevant MSMS Policy:

None

Relevant AMA Policy:

Eliminating Use of the Term "Mental Retardation" by Physicians in Clinical Settings H-70.912

Our AMA recommends that physicians adopt the term “intellectual disability” instead of “mental retardation” in clinical settings.

Sources:

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12. APA Style. (2019). American Psychological Association. Retrieved on 2/21/21 from <https://apastyle.apa.org/style-grammar-guidelines/bias-free-language/disability>