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3 Title: Recognizing the Contribution of the Clinical Laboratory Workforce in
4 Combating COVID-19 in Michigan

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6 Introduced by: Gaurav Sharma, MD, for the Wayne County Delegation

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8 Original Author: Gaurav Sharma, MD

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10 Referred To: Reference Committee D

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12 House Action: **APPROVED**
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15 Whereas, the global pandemic of COVID-19 has impacted billions of human lives across all
16 nations, and

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18 Whereas, the diagnosis and management of this transmissible disease relies on timely,
19 accurate, and dependable clinical laboratory diagnostic methods, and

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21 Whereas, in the absence of such laboratory testing, clinicians and public health agencies are
22 unable to identify and control the spread of the pandemic, and

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24 Whereas, despite significant headwinds in available staffing, supply-chain shortages, and
25 overwhelming demand for testing driven by novel SARS-COV-2 variants, clinical laboratory testing
26 for COVID-19 was sustained across the state of Michigan without any significant and prolonged
27 outage, and

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29 Whereas, as of late-February 2022, laboratory testing has helped diagnose more than two
30 million cases of COVID-19 in Michigan, and

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32 Whereas, this achievement in testing volumes comes with an intangible cost to the
33 laboratory workforce whose work-life balance has been swayed by the 24x7 shifts needed to
34 support COVID-19 testing, supply chain shortages, and reduced staffing due to post-exposure
35 home quarantines, and

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37 Whereas, one-third of the clinical laboratory workforce is age 55 years or older and thus at
38 a higher risk of complications from COVID-19, and

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40 Whereas, the technical nature of the laboratory work does not lend itself to work-from-
41 home, rather it is a job that requires hours of focused and precise work each day of the ongoing
42 pandemic; therefore be it

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44 **RESOLVED:** That MSMS acknowledge, and encourage pathologists and others in Michigan's
45 medical community to acknowledge, the challenges faced by the clinical laboratory workforce in
46 setting up unprecedented COVID-19 testing capabilities in the state of Michigan; and be it further

47 RESOLVED: That MSMS recognize that paramount professionalism was demonstrated by
48 the clinical laboratory workforce in ensuring that Michiganders maintained access to COVID-19
49 testing throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

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52 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: \$1,000-\$2,000 for basic reporting or
53 communications.

Relevant MSMS Policy: None

Relevant AMA Policy: None

Sources:

1. Where We Stand With Covid-19, retrieved 02/25/22 Coronavirus - Coronavirus (michigan.gov).
2. Edna Garcia, MPH, Iman Kundu, MPH, Melissa Kelly, PhD, Ryan Soles, MS, Lotte Mulder, EdM, Geoffrey A Talmon, MD, MEd, The American Society for Clinical Pathology's Job Satisfaction, Well-Being, and Burnout Survey of Laboratory Professionals, American Journal of Clinical Pathology, Volume 153, Issue 4, April 2020, Pages 470-486, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ajcp/aqaa008>.