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3 Title: Reducing Stigma for Treatment of Substance Use Disorder

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5 Introduced by: David Whalen, MD, for the Kent County Delegation

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7 Original Authors: Megan Edison, MD and David Whalen, MD

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9 Referred To: Reference Committee A

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11 House Action: **APPROVED**

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14 Whereas, mental health care and health care for substance use disorders are health care,  
15 not a "carve out" or an exception to health care, and

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17 Whereas, current Medicaid benefits in the state of Michigan provide coverage for  
18 transportation costs for patients traveling to/from an office visit for general health care or mental  
19 health care visits, and

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21 Whereas, treatment of substance use disorder (SUD) may also require transportation to  
22 office visits for treatment with medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) and/or for counseling,  
23 and

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25 Whereas, the cost of transportation may be a barrier to ongoing participation in the  
26 treatment and recovery process for patients with SUD, and

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28 Whereas, the cost of transportation (and lack of access) may be an added barrier to  
29 accessing MOUD for the uninsured, underinsured, or patients insured through Medicaid, and

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31 Whereas, this lack of coverage for transportation costs for patients seeking treatment for  
32 SUD potentially adds to the stigma for SUD and may discourage accessing treatment; therefore, be  
33 it

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35 RESOLVED: That MSMS advocate to require Medicaid coverage for transportation costs for  
36 all Medicaid health care services without a "carve out" for patients diagnosed with a substance use  
37 disorder who are being treated with medication for opioid use disorder; and be it further

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39 RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask  
40 our AMA to advocate coverage for transportation costs for all Medicaid or Medicare health care  
41 services without a "carve out" for patients diagnosed with a substance use disorder who are being  
42 treated with medication for opioid use disorder.

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45 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: \$12,000-\$24,000

**Relevant MSMS Policy:** None

**Relevant AMA Policy:** None