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3 **Title:** Abortion is Healthcare  
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5 **Introduced by:** Halley Crissman, MD, for the Michigan Section of the American College of  
6 Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
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8 **Original Author:** Halley Crissman, MD  
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10 **Referred To:** Reference Committee A  
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12 **House Action:** **APPROVED**  
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15       Whereas, abortion can be spontaneous, incomplete, induced by medications, or as an in-  
16 office or in-hospital procedure; the care for each of these treatments, all fall under the abortion  
17 umbrella, and should be governed by relevant overarching policies on scope of practice, and  
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19       Whereas, scope of practice guidelines exist under Public Health Law and the regulations set  
20 by professional licensing boards, as well as education and training standards set by national  
21 organizations for health professions, and  
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23       Whereas, physicians or any other healthcare professional who inappropriately provide care  
24 outside of the scope of their practice, education, training and credentialing are liable for criminal  
25 and civil penalties, and  
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27       Whereas, advanced practice providers play a critical role in access to reproductive health  
28 care, especially within the significant maternal care deserts and rural communities that exist  
29 throughout the state of Michigan, through the provision of procedures such as endometrial  
30 biopsies, IUD and contraceptive implant placement, and pregnancy and childbirth related care, and  
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32       Whereas, existing MSMS policy restricting abortion care to physicians raises concern that  
33 this policy was developed as a result of abortion stigma, given lack of MSMS policy specifically  
34 prohibiting advanced practice providers from providing any number of other medical procedures -  
35 most notably miscarriage management which requires the same medical expertise and procedural  
36 skills, and  
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38       Whereas, advanced practice providers provide abortion care in nearly one-third of states in  
39 the United States, and  
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41       Whereas, several robust studies show no differences in outcomes in medication and  
42 aspiration abortion by health care practitioner type and indicate that trained advanced practice  
43 clinicians can safely provide abortion services, and  
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45       Whereas, in 2018, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine published  
46 a report that concluded: "Aspirations are minimally invasive and commonly used for a variety of  
47 purposes in gynecology practices, including for early pregnancy loss (miscarriage). Aspiration  
48 abortions are performed safely in office-based settings and can be provided by appropriately  
49 trained APCs, as well as family practice physicians and OB/GYNs," and

50           Whereas, a Cochrane review found no significant differences in the risk of complications  
51 between advanced practice clinicians and doctors for abortion procedures, and

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53           Whereas, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) asserts the pool  
54 of healthcare providers who provide medication and aspiration abortion should be expanded to  
55 appropriately trained and credentialed advanced-practice clinicians, and

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57           Whereas, Michigan law continues to stipulate advanced practice clinicians must get their  
58 prescriptive authority for scheduled 2 thru 5 drugs from a physician; including mifepristone - used  
59 in medication abortion and early pregnancy loss care - which is a schedule 4 drug, and

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61           Whereas, the AMA recognizes that healthcare, including abortion, is a human right, and  
62 opposes limitations on access to evidence-based reproductive health services; therefore be it

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64           RESOLVED: That MSMS replace existing policy, "Abortion as a Medical Procedure" to read  
65 as follows:

66           Abortion is healthcare. MSMS opposes limitations on access to evidence-based  
67 reproductive health services.

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70           WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: \$1,000-\$2,000

## **Relevant MSMS Policy**

### **Abortion as Medical Procedure**

Abortion is a medical procedure and should be performed only by a licensed physician in conformance with standards of good medical practice and the Public Health Code of the state of Michigan. (Prior to 1990)

## **Relevant AMA Policy**

### **Preserving Access to Reproductive Health Services D-5.999**

Our AMA: (1) recognizes that healthcare, including reproductive health services like contraception and abortion, is a human right; (2) opposes limitations on access to evidence-based reproductive health services, including fertility treatments, contraception, and abortion; (3) will work with interested state medical societies and medical specialty societies to vigorously advocate for broad, equitable access to reproductive health services, including fertility treatments, fertility preservation, contraception, and abortion; (4) supports shared decision-making between patients and their physicians regarding reproductive healthcare; (5) opposes any effort to undermine the basic medical principle that clinical assessments, such as viability of the pregnancy and safety of the pregnant person, are determinations to be made only by healthcare professionals with their patients; (6) opposes the imposition of criminal and civil penalties or other retaliatory efforts, including adverse medical licensing actions and the termination of medical liability coverage or clinical privileges against patients, patient advocates, physicians, other healthcare workers, and health systems for receiving, assisting in, referring patients to, or providing reproductive health services; (7) will advocate for legal protections for patients who cross state lines to receive reproductive health services, including contraception and abortion, or who receive medications for contraception and abortion from across state lines, and legal protections for those that provide, support, or refer patients to these services; and (8) will advocate for legal protections for medical

students and physicians who cross state lines to receive education in or deliver reproductive health services, including contraception and abortion.

### **Expanding Support for Access to Abortion Care D-5.996**

1. Our AMA will advocate for: (a) broad and equitable access to abortion services, public and private coverage of abortion services, and funding of abortion services in public programs; (b) explicit codification of legal protections to ensure broad, equitable access to abortion services; and (c) equitable participation by physicians who provide abortion care in insurance plans and public programs. 2. Our AMA opposes the use of false or inaccurate terminology and disinformation in policymaking to impose restrictions and bans on evidence-based health care, including reproductive health care.

### **Oppose the Criminalization of Self-Managed Abortion H-5.980**

Our AMA: (1) opposes the criminalization of self-managed abortion and the criminalization of patients who access abortions as it increases patients' medical risks and deters patients from seeking medically necessary services; and (2) will advocate against any legislative efforts to criminalize self-managed abortion and the criminalization of patients who access abortions; and (3) will oppose efforts to enforce criminal and civil penalties or other retaliatory efforts against these patients and requirements that physicians function as agents of law enforcement - gathering evidence for prosecution rather than as a provider of treatment.

#### **Sources:**

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