

1  
2  
3 **Title:** Addressing the Unregulated Body Brokerage Industry  
4  
5 **Introduced by:** Nicolas Fletcher, MD, MHSA, for the Wayne County Delegation  
6  
7 **Original Author:** Nicolas Fletcher, MD, MHSA  
8  
9 **Referred To:** Reference Committee B  
10  
11 **House Action:** **APPROVED**  
12

---

13  
14 Whereas, the for-profit body broker industry's (a.k.a., non-transplant tissue banks) lack of  
15 regulation gives rise to significant ethical dilemmas and public health hazards, and  
16

17 Whereas, body brokers are firms or individuals that acquire whole bodies/cadavers donated  
18 to science, for the purpose of dissecting them to sell or lease the parts for profit, and  
19

20 Whereas, brokers make money - anywhere from \$5,000 to \$10,000 - by providing bodies  
21 and dissected parts to companies and institutions that specialize in advancing medicine and other  
22 trades through training, education, and research, and  
23

24 Whereas, a Reuters review of court, police, and internal broker records and interviews  
25 identified more than 2,357 body parts obtained by brokers from at least 1,638 people that were  
26 misused, abused, or defiled, and  
27

28 Whereas, in 2017, a Midwest couple was charged with defrauding customers by selling  
29 body parts infected with hepatitis and HIV, and  
30

31 Whereas, in 2016, more than 20 bodies donated to an Arizona broker were used in United  
32 States Army blast experiments, without the consent of the deceased or next of kin, and  
33

34 Whereas, body brokers are known to prey on underserved and minoritized populations,  
35 profiting on exploitation while demand for organs, skeletons, and tissues unceasingly rise., and  
36

37 Whereas, the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (1967) is a federal framework that specifies how  
38 organ donations can be made and aims to maintain the current organ donation and  
39 transplantation systems in the U.S., and  
40

41 Whereas, current regulations only cover body parts intended for transplant, such as hearts,  
42 livers, tissue; no such regulatory body exists for the body broker industry., and  
43

44 Whereas, only ten states provide any oversight, and only some require licensing or  
45 disclosure of body brokers.; therefore be it  
46

47 **RESOLVED:** That MSMS support federal and state legislation aimed at tracking what  
48 becomes of donors' bodies or body parts within the body broker industry to ensure they are  
49 handled with dignity and returned to their loved ones after cremation.; and be it further

50  
51  
52  
53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58

RESOLVED: That the Michigan Delegation to the American Medical Association (AMA) ask our AMA to collaborate with appropriate organizations, including but not limited to government agencies and professional organizations, to advocate for state and federal legislation that will provide the oversight and authority over body broker entities that receive donated human bodies and body parts for education and research.

---

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

**Relevant MSMS Policy** - None

**Relevant AMA Policy**

**Improving Body Donation Regulation H-460.890**

Our AMA recognizes the need for ethical, transparent, and consistent body and body part donation regulations.

**Sources:**

1. In a warehouse of horrors, a body broker allegedly stacked human heads (reuters.com)
2. Murphy, Tillis, Bilirakis, Fletcher Introduce Bipartisan, Bicameral Bill To Stop The Brokering Of Body Parts, Preserve Integrity Of Organ Donation Process (senate.gov)
3. Body Broker Bill Introduced in the Senate > National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA)
4. For Congress - CDRI Info 12-6-2023.pdf (nfda.org) 5) uaga\_final\_aug09.pdf (pitt.edu)