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3 **Title:** Access to Fentanyl Testing Strips
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5 **Introduced By:** Nicklas Bara for the Medical Student Section
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10 **Referred To:** Reference Committee D
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12 **House Action:** **APPROVED AS AMENDED**
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15 Whereas, fentanyl overdoses make over 67 percent of overdoses in the United States, which
16 is about 73,654 deaths in a year, and
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18 Whereas, overall overdose deaths in Michigan have surged from 183 people in 2000 to
19 2,539 people in 2021, per state data, and
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21 Whereas, as of May 2023 about 77 percent of drug supply in Michigan is tainted with
22 fentanyl, and
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24 Whereas, research indicates a 94 percent increase in fentanyl detection in drug overdose
25 cases across 11 rural Michigan counties from 2018 to 2020, and
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27 Whereas, two milligrams of fentanyl can prove fatal, underscoring the drug's deadly
28 potential, and
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30 Whereas, para-fluorofentanyl (pFF) is a fentanyl analog on the rise in Michigan overdoses,
31 and pFF is more potent than fentanyl, and
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33 Whereas, fentanyl testing strips can detect fentanyl and most fentanyl analogs, and
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35 Whereas, Michigan is one of 25 states where fentanyl testing strips are legal, and
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37 Whereas, Oakland County's Alliance of Coalitions for Healthy Communities set up save-a-
38 life boxes, which include fentanyl testing strips and other substance testing supplies, which have
39 seen 80 percent of supplies used and community requests for more supplies as of July 2023, and
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41 Whereas, providing fentanyl test strips in a similar format to Oakland County is much less
42 expensive than Narcan vending machines, costing the Oakland County's Alliance of Coalitions for
43 Healthy Communities \$450 a unit rather than \$6,500, and
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45 Whereas, fentanyl testing strips cost \$1 per strip versus \$75 per dose of naloxone, making
46 them more cost-efficient for being equitably funded across all Michigan counties, and
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48 Whereas, providing testing strips can reduce stigma for people with substance use
49 disorders in seeking support, and

50 Whereas, Harm Reduction Michigan has similar boxes to Oakland County's Save-a-Life
51 boxes set up in 28 Michigan counties as of July 2023; and be it further

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53 RESOLVED: That MSMS support programs that work to increase access to and education for
54 use of fentanyl test strips; and be it further

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56 RESOLVED: That MSMS encourages inclusion of fentanyl testing strips in save-a-life/harm
57 reduction boxes; and be it further

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59 RESOLVED: That MSMS encourages that save-a-life/harm reduction boxes be available 24/7
60 in every Michigan county in accessible locations for individuals with substance use disorders to test
61 their substances and make an informed decision about using that substance in order to reduce
62 overdose deaths in Michigan.

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

Relevant MSMS Policy

Addiction a Disease

MSMS recognizes drug addiction as a disease.

Addiction Treatment, Facilities, and Services

MSMS supports enhanced availability of and access to addiction treatment, facilities, and services within the State of Michigan.

Availability of Naloxone Boxes

MSMS supports the implementation of naloxone box stations in high-risk areas throughout the state.

Safe Consumption Sites for Opioids

MSMS supports the use of government funding in Michigan by clean syringe access programs for the purchase of syringes, needles and other equipment needed for safe consumption of opioids.

Relevant AMA Policy

Dispelling Myths of Bystander Opioid Overdose D-95.965

1. Our AMA: (a) recognizes the great burden that substance use disorders (SUDs) and drug-related overdoses and death places on patients and society alike and reaffirms its support for the compassionate treatment of patients with a SUD and people who use drugs; (b) urges that community-based programs offering naloxone and other safe and effective overdose reversal medications and other opioid overdose and drug safety and prevention services continue to be implemented in order to further develop best practices in this area; (c) encourages the education of health care workers and people who use drugs about the use of naloxone and other safe and effective overdose reversal medications and other harm reduction measures in preventing opioid and other drugrelated overdose fatalities; and (d) will continue to monitor the progress of such initiatives and respond as appropriate.

2. Our AMA will: advocate for the removal of fentanyl test strips (FTS) and other testing strips, devices or testing equipment used in identifying or analyzing whether a substance

- contains fentanyl or other adulterants from the legal definition of drug paraphernalia.
3. Our AMA will: (a) advocate for the appropriate education of at-risk patients and their caregivers in the signs and symptoms of a drug- related overdose; and (b) support the development of adjuncts and alternatives to naloxone to combat synthetic opioid-induced respiratory depression and overdose; and (c) encourage the continued study and implementation of appropriate treatments and risk mitigation methods for patients at risk for a drug-related overdose.
 4. Our AMA will support the development and implementation of appropriate education programs for persons receiving treatment for a SUD or in recovery from a SUD and their friends/families that address harm reduction measures.
 5. Our AMA will advocate for and encourage state and county medical societies to advocate for harm reduction policies that provide civil and criminal immunity for the possession, distribution, and use of "drug paraphernalia" designed for harm reduction from drug use, including but not limited to drug contamination testing and injection drug preparation, use, and disposal supplies.
 6. Our AMA will implement an education program for patients with substance use disorder and their family/caregivers to increase understanding of the increased risk of adverse outcomes associated with having a substance use disorder and a serious respiratory illness such as COVID-19.
 7. Our AMA supports efforts to increase access to fentanyl test strips and other drug checking supplies for purposes of harm reduction.

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