

Title: MSMS Medical Student Section Membership Dues

Introduced By: Nicklas Bara for the Medical Student Section

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Referred To: Reference Committee C

House Action: REFERRED TO THE MSMS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Whereas, the MSMS Constitution Section 2.6 states “Medical students may become members of the State Medical Society through a component society or directly through the MSMS Medical Students Section,” and

Whereas, the MSMS Constitution Section 12.6 states House of Delegates shall include “one voting at-large delegate for every 50 MSMS student members to be selected by the MSMS Medical Student Section,” and

Whereas, MSMS policy 45-22, “MSMS Committee on Membership Recruitment and Retention,” approves the re-establishment of the Member Committee to report and restructure dues for state society membership, and

Whereas, the current cost of MSMS membership for a new medical student member has been raised from \$5 to \$300 for 4 years as of 2023, a 5,900 percent increase, and

Whereas, the current cost of MSMS membership for a recurring medical student member has been raised from \$5 to \$100 as of 2023, a 2,566.67 percent to 7,900 percent increase depending on medical school graduation year, and

Whereas, medical students must increasingly rely on loans and scholarships to counter progressively rising tuition, cost of living, and other expenses, and

Whereas, the median education debt for indebted medical students as of 2019 was \$200,000, with 73 percent of graduates reported having educational debt, and

Whereas, medical school debt interest rates currently outpace inflation, and

Whereas, MSMS policy 46-08A, “Michigan Medical Student Debt Crisis,” resolves that the MSMS pursue venues to actively decrease the medical student debt burden, and

Whereas, MSMS policy 46-08A “Michigan Medical Student Debt Crisis” references policy stating adequate financial aid systems should be readily available for financially needy medical students, and

47 Whereas, AMA policy H-305.925, "Principles of and Actions to Address Medical Education
48 Costs and Student Debt," advocates for reduction of additional expense burden upon medical
49 students regarding non-educational debt, and

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51 Whereas, drastically increased dues costs have resulted in widespread aversion from future
52 physicians towards the MSMS; therefore be it

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54 RESOLVED: That MSMS reduce the financial burden on medical students while ensuring
55 continued access to the benefits and resources by reducing the student membership dues to \$30
56 for 4 years, with a \$10 fee for pre-existing members (which is a 600 percent increase and 100
57 percent increase from the original dues rate).

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60 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: See below.

Fiscal Note 1: Revenue Loss (reducing student dues from \$300 to \$30 for 4 year membership): \$20,000 - \$32,000 per year based on student memberships over past 2 years

Fiscal Note 2: Revenue Loss (reducing one-time fee for pre-existing members from \$100 to \$10): \$43,000 based on prior year student memberships who need to pay to retain membership

Fiscal Note 3: Reducing the dues rate for students would increase the loss realized on student memberships

- Student Resolutions Fiscal Note Costs: Estimated fiscal note costs for student resolutions have averaged between \$120,000 and \$241,000 over the past 5 years (see the HOD Handbook for a more detailed description of how fiscal notes are calculated).
- Student Resolutions: Students have submitted an average of 17 resolutions per year over the past 5 years making up 31% of all resolutions and 28% of all resolution fiscal note costs.
- Total Estimated Student Costs: Total estimated costs for the students are between \$134,000 and \$255,000 which include the cost of resolutions and another \$14,000 for other administrative costs based on estimated staff time.
- # of Student Memberships Needed to Breakeven on Costs at Current \$300 4 Year Rate: 1,797– 3,409
- Student Memberships Over Past 5 Years When Dues Rate was \$5 for 4 Year Membership: High (1,122); Low (482); Avg (854); Mean (918)

Fiscal Note 4: Board and House of Delegates Fiscal Responsibility

- Budget Challenges: The Board reduced expenses over the past year by 36% or almost \$2 million. The pain of the expense reductions have been felt throughout the organization including reducing the staff by 26%. To position MSMS for a positive operating surplus in 2024, additional steps were needed and involved increasing revenue by not only expanding memberships, but also in adjusting pricing to sustainable levels. The old \$5 for 4 year dues rate for students was not sustainable.
- Fiscal Responsibility: The Board and House of Delegates both have a fiduciary duty to operate the organization in fiscally responsible ways. Considering the low dues revenue and high administrative costs, it was clear to the Board that a significant increase in student dues is both fiscally responsible and necessary.

Relevant MSMS Policy - None

Relevant AMA Policy - None

Sources:

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2. Craft JA 3rd, Craft TP. Rising medical education debt a mounting concern. Graduates also face less favorable repayment terms, shortage of training positions. *Mo Med*. 2012 Jul-Aug;109(4):266-70. PMID: 22953586; PMCID: PMC6179784. Accessed Feb 29 2024
3. AAMC. An Exploration of the Recent Decline in the Percentage of U.S. Medical School Graduates with Education Debt. Association of American Medical Colleges. 2018; 18(4).
4. <https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/analysis-brief/report/exploration-recent-decline-percentage-us-medical-school-graduates-education-debt#:~:text=After%20decades%20of%20stability%2C%20the,debt%20compared%20with%20previous%20years>. Accessed Feb 29 2024
5. Rohlfing, J. Navarro, R. Omar, Z. Maniya, B. Hughes, D. Rogalsky, D. Medical Student Debt and Major Life Choices other than Specialty. *Medical Education Online*. 2014;