

Approved by Saginaw County Medical Society 2/16/21

With the changes noted below for clarification purposes

Approved by Washtenaw County Medical Society 2/11/21

MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

Resolution X-21

Authored by: Evelyn Eccles, MD of the Washtenaw County Medical Society;
Introduced by: TBD;
Subject: Upholding the Integrity and Vitality of the State and County Medical Societies
Referred to: MSMS Reference Committee
(Leave Blank, Chair)

Whereas the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) and county medical societies are and always have been interdependent, but supported by separate dues structures; and

Whereas the health of MSMS depends in large part on the health of the county medical societies, which provide grassroots input, mentorship, coordination, education, and leadership; and

Whereas physician and medical student members are best served when linked to leaders within their respective local, component society communities; and

Whereas physicians that live in areas where there is no active, staffed county medical society are allowed to become members of MSMS; and

Whereas the 2019 MSMS House of Delegates overwhelmingly approved continued membership unification between MSMS and the county medical societies via the amended Final MSMS Organizational Remodeling Recommendations¹, as well as disapproval of Resolution 63-19²; and

Whereas the MSMS Board of Directors considered and approved a motion at the October 2020 Board meeting re- interpreting the bylaws stating “that the MSMS Board of Directors acknowledge MSMS Legal Counsel’s interpretation that the MSMS Bylaws do not expressly require a physician to live or work in a county in order to hold membership in that county medical society”³; and

Whereas this practice could create an incentive for physicians and/or medical students and/or physician groups regardless of where they live or work to join unstaffed counties or counties without membership dues to reduce their cost; and

Whereas this option is potentially disruptive and harmful to the integrity and vitality of the county medical societies and MSMS; and

Whereas the county medical societies have become aware of physician(s) and/or physician group(s) that belong to counties in which they potentially do not live and/or work both prior to the October 2020 MSMS Board of Directors motion and approval and subsequently since; and

¹ <https://www.msms.org/About-MSMS/News-Media/overview-of-the-2019-msms-house-of-delegates>

² <https://www.msms.org/hodresolutions/2019/63.pdf>

³ Source: January 14, 2021 MSMS Board of Directors Meeting Packet

Whereas the county medical societies have requested and received membership roster(s) within their districts and/or regions previously, but have been informed by MSMS that this is not in accordance with MSMS bylaws and policies since October 2020; and

Whereas the extent to which MSMS has recruited or retained physician member(s) and/or medical student(s) in an adjoining county, or a county in which they may not live or work is currently unknown, therefore be it

Resolved that the county medical societies and MSMS work as committed partners to uphold the county medical societies' and MSMS' shared integrity and vitality, as previously approved by the House of Delegates; and be it further

Resolved the current MSMS state-wide membership shall be audited and the results shall be distributed to the county medical societies and the 2022 MSMS House of Delegates to evaluate the extent of the October 2020 bylaws re-interpretation; and be it further

Resolved that any recruitment and/or retention practice by MSMS, vendors and/or support subsidiaries, and/or county medical societies supported by the October 2020 bylaws re-interpretation that serves to undermine the integrity and vitality of the medical societies end; and be it further

Resolved that moving forward, all physician and medical student members join the county where they live or work, unless there is written agreement due to mutually agreed upon exception between the medical student, physician and/or physician group, the MSMS, and the respective county(ies).