



# MSMS Task Force Examines Future Relationship with County Medical Societies

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## Background: Why This Matters

Currently county medical societies, including Macomb County Medical Society (MCMS), are chartered components of the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) requiring dual membership in both organizations. However, MSMS is considering the "delinking" of county medical societies from MSMS, which could fundamentally change how the MCMS operates, funds itself, and represents its members.

This is the third time in recent memory that MSMS has evaluated a potential separation from county medical societies. The first two attempts were voted down by the House of Delegates (HOD), confirming that members felt the state and county societies were stronger together as unified organizations.

If the MSMS proposal moves forward, it will directly impact the MCMS' structure, dues model, and long-standing connection to organized medicine at the state level.

## Key Resolutions from the 2025 HOD Driving Changes

Three resolutions are prompting the current review:

- **Resolution 14-25:** Directs MSMS to return to alternating the HOD meeting location between southeast Michigan and Lansing. The resolution was referred to the MSMS Board for further study.
- **Resolution 16-25:** Creates a task force of county and state leaders to examine history, finances, and bylaws, and recommend a unified path forward for medical societies in Michigan.
- **Resolution 47-25:** Directs MSMS to study other state medical society structures and bylaws for potential improvements in efficiency and productivity.

## MSMS Reorganization Task Force

Following HOD approval, MSMS formed a Reorganization Task Force composed of six MSMS Board members, six county representatives, and one county executive (non-voting). The Task Force will hold three meetings this fall and report final recommendations to the MSMS Board in January 2026. The Task Force is charged with reviewing:

- **House of Delegates structure**
- **Organizational partnerships between MSMS, county medical societies, and specialty societies**
- **Leadership and governance models for MSMS**

The MSMS Board voted at their July meeting to change future HOD meetings to fully virtual with no in-person component beginning in 2026. This is estimated to save MSMS \$60,000 annually.

Potential options under consideration by the Task Force include a redefined membership model (delinking MSMS and county medical societies), a smaller MSMS board, longer presidential term of office, revised voting structures, and elimination of the MSMS Judicial Commission and Code of Conduct from MSMS' Bylaws (due to a lack of authority to perform peer review).

Concerns have been raised about variability among county medical societies in financial management, dues structure, and member benefits offered. Some counties lack functioning boards and/or IRS nonprofit status yet dues are being collected by MSMS on their behalf.

## Questions Raised by County Medical Societies

County societies are seeking clarity on several issues:

- **Structure:** What models for state-county relationships are being considered?
- **Financial Impact:** How will separation affect dues collection and county medical society budgets?
- **Representation:** Without county medical societies, how will local physicians have a voice at the state level?
- **Legal Concerns:** Could shared services or reforms strengthen county medical society oversight instead of dismantling unified membership?
- **Process:** Will there be one or two HOD readings of necessary Bylaw changes, and how will member feedback shape final recommendations?

## Your Input Matters

The decisions made over the coming months could significantly impact how Michigan physicians are represented and the future longevity of our county society. MCMS wants to hear your thoughts and concerns regarding a potential separation between MSMS and county medical societies. Please email Heidi Leach, Executive Director, at [HLeach@macombcms.org](mailto:HLeach@macombcms.org) with your feedback. Your input will help guide the MCMS in advocating for what best serves local physicians and the profession statewide. ♦

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