

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.111

Senator Theis offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the Governor to allow elective procedures
2 in hospitals and to allow healthcare providers the freedom to
3 determine their capacity to handle elective procedures.

4 Whereas, As part of the response to the COVID-19 outbreak,
5 Governor Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-17 on March 20, 2020,
6 placing temporary restrictions on non-essential medical and dental
7 procedures in Michigan hospitals and other health facilities to
8 protect public health and ensure the availability of healthcare
9 resources to address COVID-19. Non-essential procedures are those
10 not necessary "to address a medical emergency or to preserve the
11 health and safety of a patient," such as elective surgeries; and

12 Whereas, The Governor issued Executive Order 2020-59 on April
13 24, 2020, to extend the stay-at-home order through May 15, 2020,

1 while also easing some restrictions on businesses, such as allowing
2 garden stores, nurseries, and lawn care, pest control, and
3 landscaping operations to resume operation. The order did not ease
4 the temporary restrictions on elective procedures in hospitals or
5 other health facilities; and

6 Whereas, While postponing some elective procedures, such as
7 joint replacements and bariatric surgery, may not pose an immediate
8 health risk to patients, many procedures are still needed to
9 preserve patients' quality of life and long-term well-being. Health
10 and hospital organizations, such as the American Hospital
11 Association, have issued standards to guide the safe resumption of
12 elective surgeries and other procedures; and

13 Whereas, More than a dozen states have determined it is safe
14 and appropriate to ease their restrictions on elective medical
15 treatments as the stress on their healthcare systems from COVID-19
16 abates; and

17 Whereas, As cases of COVID-19 continue to fall in Michigan,
18 resuming elective medical procedures, while continuing to ensure
19 the health and safety of patients, is a key step in reopening the
20 economy and improving the financial stability of hospitals, their
21 workers, and the economy as a whole; now, therefore, be it

22 Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the Governor to allow
23 elective procedures in hospitals and to allow healthcare providers
24 the freedom to determine their capacity to handle elective
25 procedures; and be it further

26 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
27 Governor.