

## TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE INSURANCE COMMITTEE ON SENATE BILLS 1293 & 1294 PREPARED BY TRINITY HEALTH

Trinity Health – one of the ten largest health systems in the country, and the only national health system headquartered in Michigan – appreciates the opportunity to express support for Senate Bills 1293 & 1294.

With a belief that health care is a human right and that expanding access to it should be a moral and practical imperative of our industry, Trinity Health has long advocated that expanding access to care and to health insurance coverage is an essential element of health care transformation. We believe the proposal to convert Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) to a nonprofit mutual insurance company provides a unique opportunity to expand access and support health care transformation in Michigan for years to come – but only if it is done right.

Senate Bill 1294 requires BCBSM to contribute up to \$1.5 billion of the company's \$2.8 billion in reserves over 18 years to the Michigan Health and Wellness Foundation, a newly created nonprofit. We believe these funds should be spent on measures that expand access to health insurance and that this detail should be explicitly written into statute. Narrowing the foundation's efforts to measures that expand access to health insurance will ensure that BCBSM's contributions are spent in a directed and effective manner that transforms health for the state and its residents.

This important legislation enables BCBSM to transition to a nonprofit mutual insurer. Keeping BCBSM a nonprofit entity will help to continue to address important health concerns in Michigan. We support this legislation because we are optimistic it will further health care innovation. Trinity Health's physicians and hospitals are proud to be among the network of Michigan providers participating in BCBSM's Value Partnerships program, a series of more than 40 initiatives, collaboratively engaged in transforming health care, improving health care quality and patient care, and lowering health care costs.

Trinity Health, with its 12 acute care hospitals across Michigan, looks forward to continuing to partner with BCBSM to provide the best care possible to our patients. We aim to be transformational, both in our ministry and operations, as we adhere to and exceed national performance benchmarks. Positive collaborations in Michigan contribute to Trinity Health being one of the most respected networks of nonprofit community hospitals in the country.

Trinity Health is pleased to support Governor Snyder's plan to modernize Michigan's health insurance regulations. Should you have any questions about this support, please contact Tina Weatherwax Grant, VP, Public Policy & State Advocacy.

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Mercy Health Partners  
Roger Spoelman  
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Mercy Hospital – Cadillac  
John L. McLeod  
President and CEO

Mercy Hospital – Grayling  
Stephanie Riemer Matuzak  
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Saint Joseph Mercy Health System  
Garry C. Faja  
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Saint Mary's Health Care  
Philip H. McCorkle Jr.  
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St. Joseph Mercy Hospitals  
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St. Joseph Mercy Oakland  
Jack Weiner  
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St. Joseph Mercy Port Huron  
Rebekah Smith  
Interim President and CEO

St. Mary Mercy Hospital  
David Spivey  
President and CEO

Trinity Senior Living Communities  
Ken Robbins  
Chief Executive Officer

Trinity Home Health Services  
Grace McCauley  
Chief Executive Officer



We serve together in Trinity Health, in the spirit of the Gospel, to heal body, mind and spirit to improve the health of our communities and to steward the resources entrusted to us.

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