



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board

DIVISION OF
VICTIM SERVICES
MDHHS

ROBERT GORDON
DIRECTOR, DHHS

MEMORANDUM

The Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board is a legislatively created, seven-member Governor appointed Board charged with funding sexual assault and domestic violence services for victims and providing policy recommendations on the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The Board's position and rationale is solely that of the Board and does not represent the views of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services or any other body. Although the Board is administratively housed within MDHHS, it is an independent body (MCL 400.1502).

May 13, 2019

TO: House Judiciary Chairman Filler and Committee Members
FROM: Debi Cain, Executive Director, MDSVPTB
DATE: May 13, 2019
SUBJECT: Opposition HB 4380

The Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board opposes HB 4380 as introduced. The Board strongly believes that this newly created office should be placed within the Michigan Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention and Treatment Board, Division of Victim Services. The Board has substantial experience in this arena. The responsibilities articulated in sections 3 of the proposed legislation complement the statewide systems response work to campus sexual assault already being done by the Board. They also dovetail with the Division's significant sexual assault response for law enforcement, prosecutors, and advocates across the state, both on and off campus. Additionally, the Board oversees the statewide Sexual Assault Hotline, an important service for all sexual assault survivors. We would be especially equipped to link survivors who interact with the advising officer, and whom may not have a case that occurred on a campus, to important treatment and/or advocacy services.

The Board in general supports assigning legislative efforts and initiatives to the Board that are consistent with its mission to lead statewide efforts to eliminate domestic and sexual violence. Doing so will create a unified voice within state government, reduce duplicate efforts, reduce possible contradictory efforts, and enhance opportunities for efficiency, coordination and synergy. The Board believes that this will result in an office and state response that better serves victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Additionally, the Board has made the following recommendations to the bill sponsor:

1. **Refocus the work of the office onto systems advocacy and state level coordination and move away from the investigatory model.** Replace section 4(a) with language that more broadly defines the duty as "provide information on the rights, remedies, and resources available to campus sexual assault survivors."

Debi Cain, Executive Director

BOARD MEMBERS: Cris Sullivan, Ph.D., Chair • F/Lt. Yvonne D. Brantley • Honorable Thomas Cameron • Jeffrie Cape, LMSW
• James A. Fink, J.D. • Honorable Elizabeth Pollard Hines • Sue Snyder

235 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE, SUITE 1108 • PO BOX 30037 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7537

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2. **Eliminate Section 5.** The Board believes that the investigatory powers contained in section 5 offers a false promise to victims because the office does **not** have authority to change outcomes in any individual case.
3. **Amend section 9 to ensure that the act is not in effect unless it is adequately funded.**

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. We look forward to working with the sponsor and committee on this legislation.

Debi Cain, Executive Director

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