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**CORPORATE OFFICE**  
25800 NORTHWESTERN HIGHWAY, SUITE 720  
SOUTHFIELD, MI 48075  
PHONE: 248-569-8400 • FAX: 248-569-5070  
[WWW.ADVANTAGELIVING.NET](http://WWW.ADVANTAGELIVING.NET)

September 17, 2021

Honorable Graham Filler, Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
Michigan House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, Michigan 48909

**Re: House Bills 4847-4850**

Dear Representative Filler:

I am the owner of Advantage Living Centers which provides long term care to seniors and the chronically ill throughout Michigan in our 11 Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living facilities. Many of our residents require guardians to look after their affairs. As a registered nurse, I have grave concerns about the impact of this bill on our ability to provide timely care for individuals who cannot make decisions for themselves and the delays that may happen, or the unnecessary treatments we may need to administer, if less guardians are available to serve our residents.

It has been brought to my attention that several House Bills related to guardian and conservator services have been presented that will further limit our ability to find and keep quality individuals for our residents requiring these services. We have had many positive experiences with reputable conservators and guardians and do not want to see them forced to reduce or eliminate their service. As a business person who counts on the services of professional guardians and conservators, I wanted to communicate my personal and professional opposition to **House Bills 4847, 4848, 4849, and 4850.**

I'm concerned that these attempts at reform are being rushed and will drive more people out of the profession putting the individuals protected by these guardians and conservators at much greater risk. If professional guardians go away, who will care for the thousands of people who cannot make it on their own whether due to cognitive decline, mental capacity issues, or other concerns? There is no other safety net so why damage the only one we have available?

I cannot support these bills and urge you and your fellow lawmakers to hold them in your committee until they can be amended to something that can improve the system, such as a long term funding mechanism to pay them for their service. Sensible reforms are surely needed, but those proposed in these bills are not the answer. Our facilities are mostly in the Detroit and Metro Detroit areas and guardians are an essential part of the interdisciplinary team to assure the care and services needed are delivered.



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Professional guardians are no less of a valuable part of Michigan's judicial system than court appointed lawyers. However, instead of funding them in a similar fashion the way we do indigent defense lawyers, Michigan has ignored their financial plight for decades. Now this legislative package will make their jobs even harder, without providing any additional state funding to support their work. As many as 5,000 indigent people in Michigan have the benefit of a court-appointed guardian where the guardian literally must work for free. How do elected leaders allow that to happen?

Representative Filler, these bills are not a reasonable solution to address any problems within the system and should not be moved forward.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Hastings, BSN, RN, NHA  
CEO  
Advantage Living Centers