

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:

Michigan has long counted on the services of a dwindling pool of professional court-appointed guardians, yet before you are bills that would make the fragile system, worse, not better. I must communicate my strong opposition to **House Bills 4847, 4848, 4849, and 4850**.

We are an established rehabilitation program for brain and spinal injury. Many of our residents are under professional guardianship. We require this level of control to assure residents will not elope, become non-compliant with the plan of care ordered by physicians and to maintain their benefits.

I'm concerned that these rushed attempts at reform, will drive more people out of the profession and put the individuals protected by these guardians at much greater risk. If professional guardians go away, we will have a difficult time accepting new cases. Professional Guardians serve as important a role on each case as medical providers and our residential staff. We are not able to apply for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid or even State Identification for our residents. This change will put our residents in jeopardy.

I cannot support these bills and urge you and your fellow lawmakers to either kill them or amended them to something that can improve the system, not break it. Changes may be needed, but these bills are not the answer.

We are already finding it difficult, if not impossible to find professional guardians, who are willing to accept new cases. Clearly, these new barriers will make our job tougher and put a fragile population at risk.

Representative Filler, these bills are not a solution any problems within the system and should not move forward. Please do the right thing.

Sincerely,


Jack T Richert M.S. C.B.I.S
Special Tree Rehabilitation