

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 writing to you to let you know that I strongly oppose **House Bills 4847, 4848, 4849, and 4850.**

I have worked for a professional guardianship company for 16 years. On a personal level, in the past I have counted on the services of a professional guardian for my mother, when it was not in the best interest of our personal relationship for me or my siblings to serve as her guardian. If we had not had a professional guardian to lean on, we would not have the relationship with my mother that we do now.

Every week I receive at least one phone call from a family member seeking the assistance of a public guardian. Many times, the family is burnt out, overwhelmed, and begging for assistance. Additionally, I receive multiple calls each week from Adult Protective Services requesting the assistance of our services as a professional because those involved in the individual's lives have abused, neglected, or exploited them.

I am concerned that attempts at reform have been rushed and will drive more people out of the profession. I believe this will put the individuals that I have dedicated not just my career, but my life to serving and protecting at much greater risk. Who will protect these individuals if professional guardians go away? Where will family members turn when they are burnt out? Who will Adult Protective Services have to save individuals from their abusers/neglectors/exploiters?

Michigan counts on professional guardians, but these bills would make an already fragile system far worse. I agree that changes are needed, but these bills as written are not the answer. I urge you and fellow law makers to kill these bills or amend them in a way that improves the already fragile system. You should be looking at a way to fund professional guardians for the services that are provided and should be making sure that there is the funding to support any changes that are made.

Are you aware that in many instances, professional guardians provide services free of charge and when they are paid those fees are minimal? I saw this first-hand when my mother was unable to pay for the services she was provided, and I see it daily in those I serve.

The legislative package will make an already difficult job even harder and does not provide funding to support this change. It is not a solution to any of the problems within the system and will frankly make it worse. I urge you to do the right thing for professional guardians, those we serve and those who count on us and kill these bills.

Sincerely,



Stephanie M. Day
Livingston County