



HB 5114: Enhancing Access to Mental Health Care

The Facts:

- Psychiatric Medicine and Behavioral Health are a part of the education curriculum and clinical training for Physician Assistants (PA), Nurse Practitioners (NP) and Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS).
- PAs, NPs, and CNSs currently serve patients in every type of psychiatric medicine/behavioral health/mental health setting in every region of Michigan.

Two solutions to improve mental health access for Michigan residents by amending Michigan's Mental Health Code (MHC):

1. **Define PAs, NPs, and CNSs as Mental Health Professionals in the MHC.** The MHC currently defines "Mental Health Professional" as a physician, psychologist, RN, MSW, licensed professional counselor, or a licensed marriage and family therapist.
2. **Include PAs, NPs, and CNSs in the MHC as providers able to issue the initial certification to refer a patient for an evaluation by a psychiatrist.** The law ensures only a psychiatrist can provide the second certification needed to admit a patient involuntarily, and this bill does not change that.

HB 5114 FAQs

Under HB 5114, are PAs, NPs, and CNSs able to sign for hospital certification and offer restraint/seclusion orders? Are they qualified to do this?

NP and PA education programs prepare students to assess and implement a wide array of interventions for patients presenting in acute mental and physical health. These programs include training in psychiatric mental assessment and interventions. For NPs, this has occurred at the BSN and graduate levels. Psychiatric medicine is a core component of PA education.

In addition, the bill allows for PAs, NPs and CNSs to perform initial hospital certifications. Currently, this can be done by any physician and refers a patient to a psychiatrist for further evaluation. Only a psychiatrist is able to offer second

certifications for involuntary admittance under the current law and HB 5114 does not change that.

Why are CNSs included in the bill when there are no longer psychiatry/mental health certification programs offered for CNSs?

The psych CNS exam was retired in 2014. There are many psychiatric CNSs practicing in Michigan today and they are still able to renew their certifications. The psychiatric CNS is the oldest graduate specialty in nursing. Excluding this group would remove nurse mental health providers who have been practicing for six years or more. Eliminating a group of qualified mental health providers at this time would increase delays in access to care for mental health.

Should the MHC require PAs and NPs to have additional hours of post-graduate, post-certification psychiatric practice experience before being allowed to issue restraints and seclusion?

These clinicians receive adequate training to apply restraints and do so under Michigan's Public Health Code (PHC).

The current Mental Health Code (MHC) does not require physicians to have additional training in psychiatry or mental health in order to write clinical certificates for seclusion/restraint orders. ANY physician, even those who have recently graduated from medical school, may authorize hospitalizations and seclusion/restraint episodes without any special training. The PHC already outlines requirements for advanced practice providers. It is outside the scope of the mental health code to introduce additional requirements for advanced practice providers.

Should RNs be able to offer the face-to-face evaluation required by CMS after a restraint or seclusion order is issued?

Michigan is one of only two states that does not allow a registered nurse-who has been properly trained-to provide the face-to-face follow up evaluations after a restraint or seclusion is used on a patient. Texas is the only other state.

CMS allows for an RN, who has been trained in accordance with their requirements, to see the patient face-to-face after the intervention. However, the MHC does not allow any health care practitioner other than a physician to perform any of the required personal examinations. This can be confusing for healthcare providers and would bring the MHC in line with CMS's requirements.

Shouldn't the Mental Health Code include provisions to reduce the use of seclusion/restraints? Does the use of seclusion and/or restraints do damage to vulnerable service recipients?

Seclusion and restraint episodes are highly regulated and monitored with exceptional care by national and state regulatory bodies. The bar for initiating and maintaining an episode is extremely high and often these interventions are used to ensure the safety of the patient and others.

The mission of the MHC as a whole is intended to significantly restrict involuntary procedures (short and long term) from being conducted on recipients and this bill would not change that intent. Those who support HB 5114 are certainly willing to work with patient advocates on language in the law that would further reduce seclusion/restraint episodes. But that is not the intent of HB 5114 and does not fit within the scope of this bill.

The following organizations support HB 5114:

- The Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants
- The Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners
- The Michigan Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
- The Michigan Health & Hospital Association
- The Michigan Osteopathic Association
- The Michigan Academy of Family Physicians
- The Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine
- The Michigan Psychological Association
- The Michigan Mental Health Counselors Association
- The American Nurses Association-MI Chapter
- The American Psychiatric Nurses Association-Michigan Chapter
- The Michigan Nurses Association
- The Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professional
- The Economic Alliance of Michigan
- The Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
- The Michigan Association of Colleges of Nursing
- The Mackinac Center for Public Policy
- The Michigan Association of Health Plans





Common Ground
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May 17, 2024

Re: Support of HB 5114

Honorable Rep. Carrie Rheingans, Sponsor
 47th House District
 Michigan House of Representatives
 Anderson House Office Building N-896
 124 North Capitol Avenue
 Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Representative Carrie Rheingans,

As the President & Chief Executive Officer of Common Ground, a Michigan non-profit, I am writing in support of HB 5114. Common Ground relies on the mental health services of Psychiatric Nurse Practitioners (NP) to deliver medically necessary psychiatric assessment and treatment for people experiencing a mental health crisis.

HB 5114 would result in a significant savings of public funds, as it would be permissible for NPs to complete clinical certificates for involuntary hospitalization which is currently contracted to a virtual psychiatric (MD/DO) staffing agency. We would not need a contract for psychiatrists which would save approximately \$1,000,000 per year. Our NPs are supervised by our Chief Medical Officer, which would continue.

Thank you for introducing HB 5114 as it will expand the availability of mental health crisis services.

Sincerely,

Heather Rae
 President & CEO



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Dana Lasenby

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May 20, 2024

Honorable Representative Carrie Rheingan, Sponsor
47th House District
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building N-896
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

RE: Support for Senate House Bill 5114

Dear Representative Rheingans,

On behalf of Oakland Community Health Network, I am writing to respectfully urge you to support improving access to care for the thousands of Michiganders who are suffering from mental health and substance abuse disorders by voting to approve HB 5114. This bill will enhance access to mental health care services by aligning the Mental Health Code with the Public Health Code, including advanced practice providers as healthcare professionals.

The need for mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) services in Michigan is substantial. According to a study by the Altarum Institute, the unmet need for mental health care and SUD services remains alarmingly high. Approximately 600,000 Michiganders with any mental illness and 400,000 with SUD are not receiving the care they need. This means that 32% of Michigan citizens with any mental illness and 72% of those with SUD are untreated.

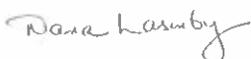
HB 5114 proposes critical changes to the Michigan Mental Health Code to include physician assistants, certified nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists in the definition of mental health professionals. This inclusion is essential for improving access to timely and effective mental health care for our residents.

We commend the legislative bodies for taking up this important transformational reworking of the Mental Health Code and strongly recommend its passage to address the growing demand for mental health services for Michigan citizens.

Please vote for House Bill 5114 (2023) to update the Mental Health Code, reflecting current practices related to the role of advanced practice providers and increasing access to essential services.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,



Dana Lasenby MA, LLP, MBA
Executive Director and CEO

Inspire Hope • Empower People • Strengthen Communities

5505 Corporate Dr. | Troy, MI 48098 | Phone 248.858.1210 | Fax 248.452.9793 | www.oaklandchn.org



Michigan Mental Wellness

**37935 W. 12 Mile Road, Suite A
Farmington Hills, MI 48331**

Phone: 248-987-4877 • Fax: 248-987-2159

March 19, 2024

Honorable Rep. Carrie Rheingans, Sponsor
47th House District
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building N-896
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

Re: Support of HB 5114

Dear Representative Rheingans,

I have been a psychiatrist for 11 years. I established my own practice in August 2016. During this time, I have hired several Physician Assistants to provide care and manage the patient load.

I hired Sarah Scantamburlo about seven years ago. During this time, I have seen the intellectual and humanistic contributions that she brings to her position. While she works independently, we work in a collaborative manner to discuss a variety of cases and concerns. She informed me that Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners are not mentioned in the Mental Health Code in the State of Michigan.

This is a definitive impediment to expeditious treatment of people suffering with mental health symptoms that necessitate emergency care. Physician Assistants like Sarah contribute to delivering the highest level of care and it is remiss that they have been overlooked for all this time for the contributions that they have been making daily in the field of Psychiatry.

Please consider this as my official support for HB 5114.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick C. Gresham', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patrick C. Gresham, MD



Paul E. Bridgewater
Board Chair

Wayne W. Bradley, Sr.
President & CEO

47th House District
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building N-896
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

RE: Support for House Bill 5114

Dear Representative Rheingans,

On behalf of Detroit Community Health Connection, I/we am/are urging you to support HB 5114, which will update the Michigan Mental Health Code by:

- Expand the definition of "mental health professional" to include a physician assistant, a certified nurse practitioner, and a clinical nurse specialist certified.
- allowing certain physical examinations to be conducted by a physician assistant, a certified nurse practitioner, or a clinical nurse specialist-certified; and
- allowing clinical certificates executed by a physician assistant, a certified nurse practitioner, or a clinical nurse specialist certified to be accepted in certain situations.

As an early supporter of this bill, we applaud the continuous work accomplished to amend the Michigan Mental Health Code to comply with both licensing and health regulations outlining the existing services provided by graduate-level specialty nurses. Without these professions joining the ranks of other prescribers in Michigan, our community mental health system of public practice would not be able to function and treat all the vulnerable patients who need our essential behavioral and physical integrated health care services. With a national shortage of psychiatrists, the public mental health system relies heavily on PAs, CNPs, and CNSs to deliver compassionate care to thousands of uninsured and historically underserved patients while addressing parity efforts linking behavioral and physical health.

In closing, I/we urge you to support the physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists as mental health professionals for inclusion in the Michigan Mental Health Code. Please vote for House Bill 5114 to update the mental health code to reflect current practices, increase access, and reduce service delays.

Sincerely,

Wayne W. Bradley, Sr.
President & Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Administration

13901 East Jefferson Ave • Detroit, Michigan 48215 • (313) 821-2591 • Fax (313) 822-4202 • www.dchcquality.org

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Fax: (313) 822-0950

Notan Health Center
111 West 7 Mile Rd
Detroit, MI 48203
Tel: (313) 369-2600
Fax: (313) 369-2477

Oscar Paskal Health Center
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Detroit, MI 48215
Tel: (313) 343-2887
Fax: (313) 343-2889

Dr. Feleta Wilson Health Center
6550 W. Warren
Detroit, MI 48210
Tel: (313) 897-7700
Fax: (313) 897-5991

Dr. Sophie Womack Health Center
7900 Karchowal
Detroit, MI 48214
Tel: (313) 921-5500
Fax: (313) 921-5530

Woodward Corridor Family Medical Center
611 Martin Luther King Blvd
Detroit, MI 48201
Tel: (313) 832-6300
Fax: (313) 832-8341

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May 15, 2024

Honorable Rep. Carrie Rheingans, Sponsor
47th House District
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building N-896
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

RE: Support for House Bill 5114

Dear Representative Rheingans.

I, Michael K. Garrett, on behalf of CNS Healthcare (CNS) would like to affirm my full support of House Bill 5114 and the expanded definition of mental health professional to include physician assistants (PAs), certified nurse practitioners (CNPs), and clinical nurse specialists (CNSs).

CNS is a leading, private, non-profit provider of comprehensive, integrated behavioral and physical health services and substance use disorder services in Southeast Michigan. Established in 2002, CNS focuses on being the source of exceptional wellness solutions through assessment, case management, psychiatric, therapy, peer support and recovery services. As a federally designated Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), CNS provides expanded access to the treatments and supports to uninsured, underinsured, and historically underserved populations throughout the community.

In response to the national shortage of psychiatrists, CNS relies heavily on PAs, CNPs, and CNSs to deliver compassionate care to more than 11,000 children, adolescents, adults, and older adults annually. As our very own Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Michele Reid, MD and Sarah Scantamburlo, PA-C testified before the Committee on Health Policy and Human Services, the acknowledgement of PAs, CNPs, and CNSs would not only further parity efforts in behavioral and physical health, but will also reduce, sometime detrimental, inefficiencies in the mental health system. The most critical inefficiency is those providers' inability to clinically certify persons served requiring hospitalization. PAs, CNPs, and CNSs establish and maintain very intimate and trusted relationships with their persons served and should be authorized to make the best and most informed decisions regarding their care.

I ask that you join me in support of House Bill 5114 to include physician assistants, certified nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists as mental health professionals in the Michigan Mental Health Code.

Sincerely,

Michael K. Garrett
President & CEO



May 16, 2024

47th House District
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building N-896
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

RE: Support for House Bill 5114

Dear Representative Rheingans,

On behalf of The Guidance Center, we are urging you to support HB 5114, which will update the Michigan Mental Health Code by:

- expanding the definition of "mental health professional" to include a physician assistant, a certified nurse practitioner, and a clinical nurse specialist certified.
- allowing certain physical examinations to be conducted by a physician assistant, a certified nurse practitioner, or a clinical nurse specialist-certified; and
- allowing clinical certificates executed by a physician assistant, a certified nurse practitioner, or a clinical nurse specialist certified to be accepted in certain situations for admission to inpatient psychiatric facilities.

As an early supporter of this bill, we applaud the continuous work accomplished to amend the Michigan Mental Health Code to comply with both licensing and health regulations outlining the existing services provided by graduate-level specialty nurses. Without these professions joining the ranks of other prescribers in Michigan, our community mental health system of public practice would not be able to function and treat all the vulnerable patients who need our essential behavioral and physical integrated health care services. With a national shortage of psychiatrists, the public mental health system relies heavily on PAs, CNPs, and CNSs to deliver compassionate care to thousands of uninsured and historically underserved patients while addressing parity efforts linking behavioral and physical health.

In closing, I/we urge you to support the physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists as mental health professionals for inclusion in the Michigan Mental Health Code. Please vote for House Bill 5114 to update the mental health code to reflect current practices, increase access, and reduce service delays.

Sincerely,

Laura Huot
Chief Operating Officer/Incoming President & CEO



Help With Every Side Of Life.

May 16, 2024

47th House District
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building N-896
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

RE: Support for House Bill 5114

Dear Representative Rheingans.

On behalf of MiSide Community Impact Network (Formerly Southwest Solutions and Development Centers Inc.), I am urging you to support HB 5114, which will update the Michigan Mental Health Code by:

- Expanding the definition of "mental health professional" to include a physician assistant, a certified nurse practitioner, and a clinical nurse specialist certified.
- Allowing certain physical examinations to be conducted by a physician assistant, a certified nurse practitioner, or a clinical nurse specialist-certified; and
- Allowing clinical certificates executed by a physician assistant, a certified nurse practitioner, or a clinical nurse specialist certified to be accepted in certain situations.

As an early supporter of this bill, we applaud the continuous work accomplished to amend the Michigan Mental Health Code to comply with both licensing and health regulations outlining the existing services provided by graduate-level specialty nurses. Without these professions joining the ranks of other prescribers in Michigan, our community mental health system of public practice would not be able to function and treat all the vulnerable patients who need our essential behavioral and physical integrated health care services. With a national shortage of psychiatrists, the public mental health system relies heavily on PAs, CNPs, and CNSs to deliver compassionate care to thousands of uninsured and historically underserved patients while addressing parity efforts linking behavioral and physical health.

In closing, I urge you to support the physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists as mental health professionals for inclusion in the Michigan Mental Health Code. Please vote for House Bill 5114 to update the mental health code to reflect current practices, increase access, and reduce service delays.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sean J. de Four", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Sean J. de Four, LMSW
President & CEO
MiSide Community Impact Network

Administration

5716 Michigan Avenue, Suite 3000
Detroit, MI 48210
313 - 481 - 3102

misode.org





Theresa Korroch MS, LLP
Chief Executive Officer

47th House District
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building N-896
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

RE: Support for House Bill 5114

Dear Representative Rheingans.

On behalf of Lincoln Behavioral Services, I am urging you to support HB 5114, which will update the Michigan Mental Health Code by:

- Expanding the definition of "mental health professional" to include a physician assistant, a certified nurse practitioner, and a clinical nurse specialist certified.
- allowing certain physical examinations to be conducted by a physician assistant, a certified nurse practitioner, or a clinical nurse specialist-certified; and
- allowing clinical certificates executed by a physician assistant, a certified nurse practitioner, or a clinical nurse specialist certified to be accepted in certain situations.

As an early supporter of this bill, we applaud the continuous work accomplished to amend the Michigan Mental Health Code to comply with both licensing and health regulations outlining the existing services provided by graduate-level specialty nurses. Without these professions joining the ranks of other prescribers in Michigan, our community mental health system of public practice would not be able to function and treat all the vulnerable patients who need our essential behavioral and physical integrated health care services. With a national shortage of psychiatrists, the public mental health system relies heavily on PAs, CNPs, and CNSs to deliver compassionate care to thousands of uninsured and historically underserved patients while addressing parity efforts linking behavioral and physical health.

In closing, I urge you to support the physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists as mental health professionals for inclusion in the Michigan Mental Health Code. Please vote for House Bill 5114 to update the mental health code to reflect current practices, increase access, and reduce service delays.

Sincerely,

Theresa Korroch, MS, LLP
Chief Executive Officer
Lincoln Behavioral Services



**Gathering Place
Clubhouse**
24425 Plymouth Road
Redford, MI 48239
Phone: 313-450-0411
Fax: 313-450-0410

ACT Program
24435 Plymouth Road
Redford, MI 48239
Phone 313-450-0400
Fax: 313-450-0404

Clinical Programs
14500 Sheldon Road #160B
Plymouth, MI 48170
Phone: 734-459-5590
Fax: 734-656-9846

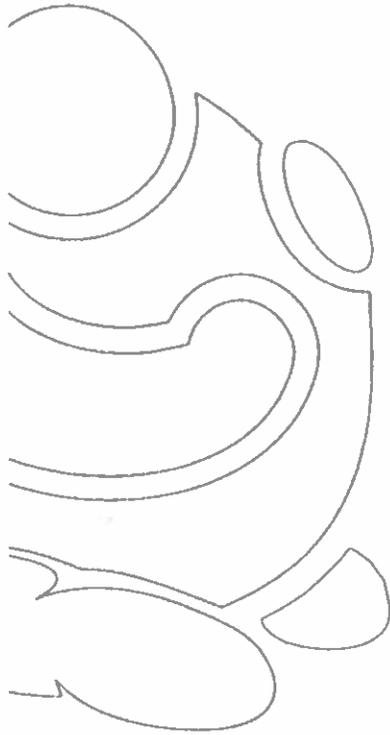
**Child and Family
Programs**
9329 Telegraph Road
Redford, MI 48239
Phone: 313-937-9500
Fax: 313-937-9504

**Administration/Clinical
Programs**
9315 Telegraph Road
Redford, MI 48239
Phone: 313-450-4500
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10 Peterboro St.
Detroit, MI 48201-2722



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THE MIND,
BODY AND
COMMUNITY.

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May 20, 2024

Honorable Rep. Carrie Rheingans, Sponsor
47th House District
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building N-896
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

RE: Support for House Bill 5114

Dear Representative Rheingans.

I have been a physician for over 40 years, practicing in the Detroit area, and am writing to implore your support of HB5114. My career has been dedicated to the community health arena in the field of pediatrics and administration. I serve the most underserved population in the inner city of Detroit, MI, suffering from general medical conditions and mental disorders.

Working in a Federally Qualified Health Center, I collaborate daily with advanced practice providers, and they have been a key factor in increasing access to care. However, the roles of Physician Assistants (PAs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are not fully addressed in the Michigan Mental Health Code. This is a definitive impediment to improving access to treatment for people suffering from mental disorders, including substance use disorders, which necessitate emergency care. NPs are an integral part of addressing the shortage of health care providers in both primary care and mental disorders.

In my experience, NPs and PAs have been instrumental in bridging the gap in mental health care for my patients. Their expertise and dedication have significantly contributed to the timely and effective treatment of individuals facing mental health crises. For instance, their ability to quickly assess and manage acute mental health symptoms has often prevented the escalation of crises, leading to better outcomes for patients and their families.

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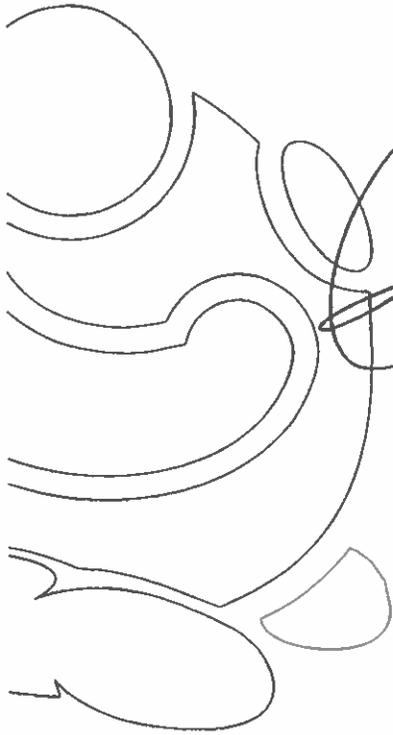
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COMMUNITY.

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RE: Support of House Bill 5114
May 20, 2024
Page 2

Including PAs and NPs in the Mental Health Code will significantly enhance our ability to provide timely and effective care to those in urgent need. It will also acknowledge the essential role these professionals play in our healthcare system, particularly in mental health care, where their skills and dedication are invaluable.

Thank you for your support. I appreciate your acknowledgment of our constraints and applaud your efforts to improve our healthcare system. By supporting HB5114, you will help ensure that we can continue to provide the highest level of care to those who need it most.

Thank you so much for your due diligence to this matter.

Sincerely,

Norris C. Poll, MS, MD
Chief Medical Officer
Central City Health

Supported by



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Central City Integrated Health receives Health and Human Services (HHS) funding and has Federal PHS deemed status with respect to certain health or health-related claims, including medical malpractice claims, for itself and its covered individuals.



47th House District

Michigan House of Representatives

Anderson House Office Building N-896

124 North Capitol Avenue

Lansing, MI 48933

RE: Support for House Bill 5114

Dear Representative Rheingans,

On behalf of myself, Caitlin VanderWindt, nurse practitioner at Detroit Community Health Connection, I am urging you to support HB 5114, which will update the Michigan Mental Health Code by:

- Expanding the definition of “mental health professionals” to include a physician assistant, a certified nurse practitioner, and a clinical nurse specialist certified.
- Allowing certain physical examinations to be conducted by a physician assistant, a certified nurse practitioner, or a clinical nurse specialist-certified; and
- allowing clinical certificates executed by a physician assistant, a certified nurse practitioner, or a clinical nurse specialist certified to be accepted in certain situations.

As an early supporter of this bill, we applaud the continuous work accomplished to amend the Michigan Mental Health Code to comply with both licensing and health regulations outlining the existing services provided by graduate-level specialty nurses. Without these professions joining the ranks of other prescribers in Michigan, our community mental health system of public practice would not be able to function and treat all the vulnerable patients who need our essential behavioral and physical integrated health care services. With a national shortage of psychiatrists, the public mental health system relies heavily on PAs, CNPs, and CNSs to deliver compassionate care to thousands of uninsured and historically underserved patients while addressing parity efforts linking behavioral and physical health.

I work as a pediatric nurse practitioner on the eastside of Detroit and there are so many vulnerable patients with mental health diagnosis who need care and treatment and NPs like myself are doing a great job giving competent care to these patients. I urge you to support the physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists as mental health professionals for inclusion in the Michigan Mental Health Code. Please vote for House Bill 5114 to update the mental health code to reflect current practices, increase access, and reduce service delays.

Sincerely,

Caitlin VanderWindt, NP

Caitlin VanderWindt 5.15.2024

MI BEHAVIORAL HEALTH & WELLNESS COLLABORATIVE

March 14, 2024

The Honorable Carrie Rheingans
Michigan House of Representatives
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

RE: Support for House Bill 5114

Dear Representative Rheingans.

I am writing on behalf of the MI Behavioral Health & Wellness Collaborative ("Collaborative"), an association representing community mental health providers in Wayne County.

We aim to stabilize the behavioral health care workforce and develop a consistent pipeline into community mental health. On behalf of the Collaborative, we support HB 5114 in its current form and encourage a hearing on the bill.

We look forward to testifying at the hearing and welcome the opportunity to be a resource for you moving forward.

On behalf of the MI Behavioral Health & Wellness Collaborative,



Daniel Cherrin

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS

May 16, 2024

Honorable Rep. Carrie Rheingans, Sponsor
47th House District
Michigan House of Representatives
Anderson House Office Building N-896
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48933

RE: Support for HB 5114 – Continued inclusion of CNSs

We express our resolute support for including Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs) in Michigan House Bill 5114. As the House Health Policy Committee nears its vote, we stress the need for CNSs' expertise within the bill. As board members advocating for comprehensive healthcare, we recognize CNSs as Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) whose specialized training and education are indispensable in providing superior care and fostering healthcare innovation.

The specialized patient care areas that HB 5114 targets cannot be effectively addressed without the contributions of CNSs. Their exclusion would significantly impact the bill's successful implementation and the advancement of patient safety. HB 5114 is key in redefining mental health professionals' roles and enhancing mental health care by enabling CNSs, physician assistants, and certified nurse practitioners to perform vital examinations and interventions. CNSs, equipped with graduate-level education and training, are uniquely qualified to manage complex healthcare challenges. Their absence from HB 5114 would negatively affect the mental health community and the patients who depend on their specialized expertise.

We urge the committee to acknowledge the essential role of CNSs and to vote for their continued inclusion in HB 5114, ensuring the bill serves the comprehensive needs of our healthcare community. We appreciate your consideration and trust your decision will reflect the best interests of Michigan's healthcare system.

Sincerely,

Michigan Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
874 Washtenaw Street NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

