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## MEMORANDUM

To: Representative Kelly Breen, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee

From: Michigan Guardianship Association

Date: Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Re: **Guardianship System Reform**

On behalf of the 200+ professional members of the Michigan Guardianship Association (“MGA”), we thank you for your focus on the guardianship system in the State of Michigan.

The Michigan Guardianship Association is the premier initiator for the advancement of legislative reform, education and the promotion of best practices for the protection of vulnerable individuals. Our members serve over 15,000 residents in nearly every one of Michigan’s 83 counties.

Michigan’s guardianship system is fractured and in dire need of major reform and improvements and we are encouraged that this committee is willing to consider legislation that would bring substantive changes to the practice of guardianship.

There are a number of bills that have been referred to the House Judiciary Committee that we hope to work with members on advancing, none more important than **House Bills 4171 and 4172**, bipartisan bills which would create arguably the most stringent guardianship certification statute in the country.

If we are going to truly reform the system, we need to start by preventing bad actors from entering the profession and then force out those that aren’t willing to follow the rules.

MGA supports HB 4171 & 4172 without hesitation and encourages this committee to bring them up for review so that members can fully understand what safe guards could be put in place to protect Michigan’s most vulnerable.

MGA has additional substantive reform ideas that we will be sharing with the committee. We look forward to working with this committee to truly improve the guardianship system without inadvertently driving the good actors out of business.