



May 24, 2017

House Health Policy Committee

RE: House Bills 4406 & 4407

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Beaumont Children's Hospital

Children's Hospital of
Michigan/Detroit Medical Center

Henry Ford Health System

Hurley Medical Center

University of Michigan C.S. Mott
Children's Hospital and Von
Voigtländer Women's Hospital

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Michigan Section, American
Congress of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists

Mott Children's Health Center

PARTNERING MEMBERS

Calhoun County Public Health
Department

Health Department of Northwest
Michigan

Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan

Michigan Association for Infant
Mental Health

Michigan School Health
Coordinators' Association

Michigan State Medical Society

School-Community Health
Alliance of Michigan

Washtenaw County Public
Health

GENERAL MEMBERS

Maternal-Newborn Nurse
Professionals of Southeastern
Michigan

Michigan Association of School
Nurses

Michigan Section, Association of
Women's Health, Obstetric and
Neonatal Nurses

Michigan Chapter, National
Association of Pediatric
Nurse Practitioners

Nurse Administrators Forum

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amy Zaagman
azaagman@mcmch.org

Dear Chair Vaupel and committee members,

The Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health and the Michigan School Health Coordinators' Association (MiSCHA) support HB 4406 and HB 4407. The bills and the comprehensive effort on the part of the Legislature speak to the urgent need to combat the epidemic of opioid abuse in our state. Evidence shows primary prevention efforts such as classroom education can have a significant impact on behaviors related to substance abuse. We applaud these efforts and our members look forward to helping implementing them when passed.

Because Michigan has been a long-time leader in health education we do not have to "reinvent the wheel" in order to meet the requirements outlined in the bills. Michigan is the birthplace of the *Michigan Model for Health™* (MMH), an evidence-based comprehensive K-12 health education curriculum. It was developed in 1985 and has seen a number of revisions as funding has become available for the necessary process. The MMH, while not mandated, is widely used across the state, reaching more than five out of every six public schools and at least 746,975 students during the 2015-2016 academic year.

In addition to its broad utilization, the MMH has secured placement on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Registry of Evidence-Based Programs and Practices (NREPP), an online registry of evidence-based interventions supporting mental health promotion, substance abuse prevention, and mental health and substance abuse treatment.

We are also privileged to have a statewide network of experts already in place to train teachers, staff and administrators in the MMH. MiSCHA represents the 24 Regional School Health Coordinators who promote the health and safety of students, families and school staff using research-based approaches that improve students' academic and health outcomes.

As with any quality curriculum, the MMH must evolve to meet the needs of the students and communities in which it is being utilized. We support HB 4406 and the call to implement updated opioid education into this model curriculum. MCMCH and MiSCHA have been working to secure funding in the state budget to again update and modernize the MMH with the most current information and create a web-based format. At present the curriculum can only be accessed in hard copy form.

We also support HB 4407 and the requirement that opioid abuse be an element of the health education credit currently in the Michigan Merit Standard Curriculum.

We hope that if both bills are enacted that the Department of Education and the Prescription Drug and Opioid Abuse Commission will work quickly and in tandem to update the MMH and distribute a model program of instruction to all districts so we can be sure that ALL students receive the same quality, comprehensive materials and, ideally, may hear the same messages repeatedly.

Thank you for this opportunity to support HBs 4406 and 4407. We appreciate the Legislature's action to address the opioid crisis and look forward to reviewing additional efforts.

Sincerely,

Marshall Collins
President
Michigan School Health Coordinators Association

Amy U. Zaagman
Executive Director
Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health