

To: Rep. Erika Geiss (District 12)
Subject: RE: Committee on Michigan Competitiveness and Today's Hearing on SB 6

From: Verheek, Andrew [<mailto:andrew.verheek@kentcountymi.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 9:11 AM
To: Rep. Erika Geiss (District 12) <ErikaGeiss@house.mi.gov>
Subject: Committee on Michigan Competitiveness and Today's Hearing on SB 6

Good Morning Representative Geiss -

My name is Andy Verheek and I represent the Michigan Association of Community Corrections Advisory Boards here in Michigan (MACCAB). This organization is comprised of the Community Correction Advisory Board (CCAB) managers across the state. We are responsible for managing community corrections funding obtained from the Michigan Department of Corrections in our respective communities.

I'm writing today in regards to the Committee on Michigan Competitiveness hearing this afternoon at 12 noon. One of the bills up for discussion is SB 6, which seeks to add a definition of recidivism to Public Act 511.

What we are requesting/hoping to see happen is to have the definition that is currently proposed modified to more accurately reflect how our various organizations do business in our respective counties as well as more accurately reflect the measure of recidivism based on the offender populations we currently serve in terms of those enrolled in services and the types of offenders, probationers, enrolled in these services.

To that end, I have included in the body of this email as well as attached the proposed language we would like to see included in the bill. We feel that this language better encapsulates the tracking and reporting of recidivism based on how the various CCABs do business in Michigan. The proposed language is as follows:

The intent of these suggested changes is twofold:

1. Bring the language defining recidivism more in line with how community corrections operates in terms of the primary population served by the various Office of Community Corrections (OCC) offices across Michigan. For example, OCC does not concentrate on parolees as a priority population. The programming/services provided through OCC concentrate on probationers as their primary population. We want to ensure that we are looking at recidivism for our primary population. Hence, our desire to see any mention of parolees stricken from the proposed recidivism language/definition.
2. Ensure that each OCC is looking at recidivism for the individuals that were involved in programming and not making each OCC responsible for the overall recidivism rate in a county. OCC funding allows each CCAB to serve a portion of the sentenced felony offender population in each county. We would like to see recidivism tailored to ensure we are tracking and measuring this metric for the offenders that received OCC programming.

To that end, these are MACCAB's suggested changes to the language included in SB 6 -

SEC. 2 (l) "RECIDIVISM" MEANS RECONVICTION OR REINCARCERATION IN PRISON OR JAIL FOR A NEW FELONY OR MISDEMEANOR OFFENSE OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WAS ENROLLED IN COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS-FUNDED PROGRAMMING AS MEASURED FIRST AFTER 3 YEARS AND AGAIN AFTER 5 YEARS FROM THE DATE OF HIS OR HER RELEASE FROM INCARCERATION, PLACEMENT ON PROBATION, OR CONVICTION, WHICHEVER IS LATER.

SEC. 2 (m) PROBATION VIOLATION DATA RELATED TO RECIDIVISM WILL BE COLLECTED AND REPORTED SEPARATELY FROM NEW OFFENSE DATA. "TECHNICAL PROBATION VIOLATION" MEANS A VIOLATION OF THE TERMS OF A PROBATIONER'S PROBATION ORDER THAT IS NOT IN AND OF ITSELF A VIOLATION OF A LAW OF THIS STATE, A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THIS STATE, ANOTHER STATE, OR THE UNITED STATES OR OF TRIBAL LAW.

Remove any mention of parolees and parole violations as well as remove the new language proposed in Sec. 4 (2).

Thank you in advance for considering our suggestions. If there are any questions, I can be reached at 616-632-5367 or via email at andrew.verheek@kentcountymi.gov

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