SHIRLEY HAYWARD
12373 Drew Ct.
Detroit, MI 48213

RE: IN OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILLS 1110, 1115, 1116, 1117, AND 1118

My daughter, Valerie Hayward, was 17 years-old when she died on 8/1/01. One day before her death, on 7/31/01, I took her to the Emergency Room because she was complaining of chest pain. The Emergency Room doctor suspected pulmonary embolism, or blood clots in the lungs, and ordered a CT scan of Valerie's chest. A CT scan was done. The hospital radiologist who interpreted the CT scan notified the Emergency Room doctor the CT scan was negative for pulmonary embolism. Accordingly, Valerie was discharged from the ER that same day with a diagnosis of muscle strain.

On the morning of 8/1/2001, the family was startled with an urgent phone call from the hospital notifying us to bring Valerie to the Emergency Room right away because the CT scan that had been performed the night before did in fact show that Valerie had a blockage in her lungs (pulmonary embolism,) and that she needed immediate treatment. Apparently, another hospital radiologist found this error the next day when he proceeded to dictate the CT report, and noted that the CT scan had been wrongly interpreted, and that there was in fact pulmonary embolism. I went to my daughter's room to wake her up, and she started complaining of shortness of breath, and suddenly collapsed. EMS came and took her to the ER right away. They tried to revive her but it was too late. Valerie was pronounced dead shortly thereafter as a result of pulmonary embolism.

Had the above proposed senate bills been in effect at the time of my daughter's death, there would have been no recourse for our family. The doctor who completely misread the CT scan would have not been held accountable whatsoever. If it wasn't for that doctor's medical error, my daughter would still be alive today. Please do not let these bills pass. They will make the practice of medicine less safe, and doctors who seriously injure or kill patients will escape responsibility.

Shirley Hayward

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5-22-2012

Date