



Detroit Wayne County
HEALTH AUTHORITY
It's about access...for all.

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April 29, 2014

Via Facsimile & Email

Representative Joseph Haveman
Capitol Building
251 Capitol
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Representative Haveman and Committee Members:

As sponsor of the nation's largest teaching health center program, which includes both medical and dental residencies, and a major stakeholder in Michigan's efforts to increase the numbers of providers available to work with medically underserved population in the state, we ask for your support of Senate Bills 648 and 649, introduced by Senators John Moolenaar and Jim Marleau.

It is of critical importance that we include dentists in the loan repayment program and include dental students in the low-income minority student grant program.

You no doubt are aware that many physicians are compelled to pursue more affluent specialties and practice locations. In order to repopulate our safety net with primary care physicians, we need incentives to help relieve the pressure of excessive medical school debt. These bills, which passed unanimously in the Senate, make much needed policy changes to the Michigan State Loan Repayment Program, including lifting the cap on how long a provider can stay in an underserved area and receive loan forgiveness.

Given our aging population, the growing percentage of primary care providers retiring, and the increased demand that the Affordable Care Act and related Healthy Michigan program have made on our existing physicians, we need to recruit as many as possible to serve the Michigan population.

Should you consider the legislation, we would be pleased to offer testimony on the benefit of the Essential Health Provider Program and how this will impact our medically underserved areas of Wayne County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Allen".

Chris Allen
Chief Executive Officer
Detroit Wayne County Health Authority