HOUSE BILL 5908
AMENDEMENTS TO THE MICHIGAN LIMOUSINE TRANSPORTATION ACT
December 2, 2014

POSITION: Support the Bill as Introduced. Michigan Association for Home Care believes that the Limousine Transportation Act should not be applied to providers of home care services for the following reasons:

- The primary function of the home care industry is to serve the care needs of senior citizens, the chronically ill and disabled, special needs children and hospice patients. Transportation is but an incidental service in the overall mission of service to the patient/consumer.

- The requirements of the Limousine Transportation Act pose financial hardship to home care providers. Inadequate reimbursement rates are challenging providers to continue participation in the Michigan Medicaid and federal Medicare programs.

- Home health care provider agencies transport their consumers to doctor appointments, health care tests and other purposes for the well-being of the patient when transportation is included in the patient's "Plan of Care." The Plan of Care lists all of the services for which the home health care agency is responsible to the patient. All home health care agency patients have a Plan of Care. It can be the Plan of Care agreed upon between the home health care provider agency, the Plan of Care held in contract for the patient between an Area Agency on Aging and the health care provider agency, or the Plan of Care authorized by signature of a physician. Example: A direct care worker may use his/her personal vehicle or a vehicle provided by the employer home health agency to transport a patient for a visit to the doctor. The worker's training is relied upon not only for the "trip," but to support the patient for the purpose of the trip; e.g., participating in the doctor's visit. The worker is not just along for the ride!

- Home health care provider agencies already maintain policies which address appropriate insurance coverages, the driver safety records of their employees and safety inspections of their vehicles.

Conclusion: Home health care provider agencies are not limousine transportation companies. The Limousine Transportation Act should not be interpreted to apply to providers in the home care industry, including home health, private duty home care, hospice agencies.

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