

- *Testimony Given by Zach Jarou to the Michigan House Judiciary Committee on October 24, 2014*
- Good morning members of the House Judiciary Committee. My name is Zach Jarou. I'm a 4th year medical student at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. I'm currently in the process of applying to Emergency Medicine residency training programs. Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of adopting the legislation before you.
- I'm here today speaking from a medical student perspective. This legislation is not only important to our patients and physicians currently in practice, but also to physicians-in-training. As a medical student, I can assure you that caring for patients in the emergency department is not always a straightforward endeavor. On several occasions, I have come out of patient rooms thinking that I have captured their whole story only to have the story change when the patient was seen by my supervising physician.
- The coming physician shortage is real and documented. As Representative Lipton pointed out, although this data may not project a shortage of emergency physicians, it does represent the specialists that we rely on. Emergency care is a team sport. Without our specialists, patients do not have access to the high quality emergency care that they deserve. It is much riskier for specialists to take patients from the emergency department, compared to a patient that has been thoroughly screening in an outpatient setting.
- Michigan is a national leader in Graduate Medical Education, in terms of the number of medical students and residents that are trained, however we fall below the national average in post-residency retention. Michigan is currently a net exporter of trained physicians. States that have passed similar legislation to what is being proposed today are currently retaining 50% more of the physician trained in their state compared to Michigan.
- As the physician shortage worsens, it is important for Michigan to create a favorable practice environment in order to retain and recruit the best and brightest medical minds so that the patients of our state have access to the best care possible.
- Thank you once again for the opportunity to speak in favor of this bill.