



**Written comments Senate Families, Seniors and Human Services Committee
11/12/14**

RE: Senate Bill 1135

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Beaumont Children's Hospital
DMC Children's Hospital of Michigan
Henry Ford Health System
Hurley Medical Center
University of Michigan
C.S. Mott Children's Hospital and
Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

Michigan Section, American Congress
of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Mott Children's Health Center

PARTNERING MEMBERS

Calhoun County
Public Health Department
College of Health and Human Services,
Eastern Michigan University
Detroit Department of Health
and Wellness Promotion
Genesee County Health Department
Health Department of
Northwest Michigan
Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan
Michigan Association for
Infant Mental Health
Michigan Coordinated
School Health Association
School-Community Health Alliance
of Michigan
Tomorrow's Child

GENERAL MEMBERS

Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies
of Michigan
Maternal-Newborn Nurse Professionals
of Southeastern Michigan
Michigan Association of School Nurses
Michigan Section,
Association of Women's Health,
Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Amy Zaagman
azaagman@mcch.org

Dear Chair Emmons and members of the committee:

Good afternoon, my name is Amy Zaagman and I am the Executive Director of the Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health. Council membership is comprised of large hospital systems, statewide organizations and smaller local entities organized around the belief that through a collective voice they can help shape policy and legislation that impact maternal and child health in Michigan. We appreciate this opportunity to share our input on Senate Bill 1135.

First and foremost, we would like to thank Sen. Proos and his staff for their interest and commitment to updating Michigan's child safety seat statute. We helped initiate discussion with Sen. Proos at the urging of one of our members, C.S. Mott Children's Hospital at the University of Michigan Health System, where Dr. Michelle Macy practices in the emergency department. Dr. Macy also does research and evaluation with their Child Health Evaluation and Research Unit.

Michigan's child safety seat statute is out-of-date. It does not meet American Academy of Pediatrics recommendations or the National Highway Traffic Safety recommendations. Michigan families get safety seat information in their pediatrician's office and in marketing materials from seat manufacturers, but conflicting messages about safety from Michigan statute. Just as the range of car seats has evolved and grown to meet the research available, we need a statute that reinforces the strongest standard.

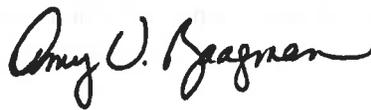
Dr. Macy shared with Sen. Proos her practice experience as well as research she published early this year on the experience of families and disparities that exist in appropriate use of child passenger restraints or "car seats." Through those discussions, we urged Sen. Proos to consider updating and simplifying Michigan statute to create a "floor" safety standard predicated on weight for children weighing 50 lbs and less and on height for children under 57 inches.

Too many children are pushed forward into seats that are not appropriate for their physical development and it leaves them more vulnerable in a crash. More than 100 children younger than 8 die in a crash in Michigan each year. Far more have injuries that are more severe than they would have been in an appropriate restraint.

One of the biggest issues Dr. Macy has stressed is the need for older children to stay in a booster seat until they fit in an adult safety belt properly, not simply allowing them to move out of a booster seat when they reach 8 years of age. Children placed in adult restraints that do not properly fit across their hips can suffer major internal damage from the force of the adult belt across their abdomen in a crash.

We look forward to engaging members and other stakeholders to update Michigan's child safety seat and restraint laws. MCMCH members, including Dr. Macy, can be available to provide clinical and research data to support the need and help educate interested parties. Please contact me if you are interested.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Amy U. Zaagman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Amy U. Zaagman
Executive Director