

**SB 136 – Conscientious Objector Bill**

The Hospice and Palliative Care Association of Michigan, representing hospice Providers and employers, must express opposition to Senate Bill 136 in its current form.

HPCAM's Members already have, individually and collectively, sufficient protocols for addressing the types of conflicts the bill would seek to address and believe that codification of a uniform solution for "conscientious objection" is redundant, intrusive and excessive.

In addition, HPCAM Members are concerned about the explicit provision for civil penalties in the event of a violation since we believe it would certainly increase litigation (and therefore the cost of doing business) and create a shift away from our members' focus of delivering quality end-of-life care.

Finally, we are concerned that the bill could allow insurers, as opposed to families in consultation with health professionals, to determine the most appropriate end of life care – care which is highly personal and individual - for that patient.

For these reasons, HPCAM opposes SB 136 and urges the Health Policy Committee to not send it to the Senate floor for a vote.