UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Dear Chairman Meadows, Vice Chairman Schuitmaker, and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

As students on the Michigan Student Assembly, at the University of Michigan, we are the central student government on campus and represent the school's 40,000 students. We received information regarding your meeting on Wednesday, October 14 where you will address HB 4876 and although we will unfortunately not be able to attend this meeting, we would like to express in writing that we wholeheartedly support this bill and urge for it to be passed.

As students from various classes, grades and circles of friends, we have found that we can all relate to having heard stories of fellow classmates who have found themselves in the scary situation of either being too intoxicated or having to deal with another student who is too intoxicated. In both situations, students are scared to call the police for fear of damage to their records or being punished by alcohol policies. In many situations, the difference between calling the police and not calling the police have caused negative consequences to a student's health. We are fortunate enough to say that there has not been a death from intoxication during our years here at the university, but we are scared that if HB 4876 is not implemented, our students and community may be faced with a fatal situation.

There are countless situations when students have transported their friends to the hospital in the event that an individual is in need of medical attention. This avoids the possibility that either student will receive an MIP from the officer, because one was never called to respond to the scene. It is neither in the interest of the student or others on the road to have someone driving who very well may also be under the influence of alcohol.

As University of Michigan students, we urge the committee to support and pass HB 4876 so that students will not be discouraged or fearful of calling the police and paramedics in the event of medical emergencies. Students should not be deterred or punished for assisting a friend in need or from seeking help for themselves. HB 4876 will save students' lives and promote health and safety on campus.

Sincerely,

Abhishek Mahanti

President, Michigan Student Assembly